History and Traditions

of

Clay County

ARKANSAS

Dedication

THIS BOOK is dedicated to the old timers; those first comers and their bonneted women who, every year now, are going quietly away, one by one.

History and Traditions of Clay County

COUNTY OFFICERS FROM THE BEGINNING

(By J. R. Scurlock)

State Senator

E. F. Brown ..... 1874 to 1876
B. H. Crowley ..... 1876 to 1880
J. C. Hawthorne ..... 1880 to 1884
J. S. Anderson ..... 1884 to 1892
Robert Liddell ..... 1892 to 1896
John R. Raines ..... 1896 to 1900
M. P. Huddleston ..... 1900 to 1904
J. K. Browning ..... 1904 to 1908
T. A. Turner ..... 1908 to 1912
J. M. Futrell ..... 1912 to 1916
R. Whitaker ..... 1916 to 1920
P. R. Barnes ..... 1920 to 1924
W. F. Kirsch ..... 1924 to 1928
W. E. Spence ..... 1928-30 Resigned
R. E. Spence ..... 1930-32 Appointed

State Representative

E. B. Hadley ..... 1874 to 1876
Greene B. Holifield ..... 1878 to 1880
P. H. Greenshaw ..... 1880 to 1882
E. B. Hadley ..... 1882 to 1884
John H. Payne ..... 1884 to 1886
John H. Hill ..... 1886 to 1888
J. W. Dollison ..... 1888 to 1890
F. G. Taylor ..... 1890 to 1892
J. T. Blackshare ..... 1892 to 1894
Bascom B. Holifield ..... 1894 to 1898
Thomas B. Baker ..... 1898 (Died)
C. R. Beloate .....to 1900 (Appointed)
E. M. Allen ..... 1900 to 1904
R. H. Dudley ..... 1904 to 1906
John Hill ..... 1906 to 1908
John Campbell ..... 1908 to 1912
John Brawner ..... 1912 to 1916
James Curtis ..... 1916 to 1918
John Campbell ..... 1918 to 1920
O. T. Ward ..... 1920 to 1924
G. B. Oliver, Jr. ..... 1924 to 1928
John Campbell ..... 1928 to 1930
Earl Day ..... 1930 to 1932

County Judges

T. M. Holifield ..... 1874 to 1878
E. N. Royall ..... 1878 to 1886
Robert Liddell ..... 1886 to 1890
W. J. Belch ..... 1890 to 1892
D. Hopson ..... 1892 to 1896
E. N. Royall ..... 1896 to 1900
J. S. Jordan ..... 1900 to 1904
L. Hunter ..... 1904 to 1908
B. B. Holifield ..... 1908 to 1914
W. O. Irby ..... 1914 to 1916
R. L. Lewis ..... 1916 to 1920
J. L. Taylor ..... 1920 to 1924
J. S. Simpson ..... 1924 to 1928
T. A. French ..... 1928 to 1930
E. G. Ward ..... 1930 to 1932

Sheriffs

Wiliam G. Akers ..... 1873 to 1874
E. N. Royall ..... 1874 to 1876
E. M. Allen ..... 1876 to Sept. 1877
E. N. Royall ..... Sept. 1877 to 1878
J. A. McNeil ..... 1878 to 1886
G. M. McNeil ..... 1886 to 1888
B. B. Biffle ..... 1888 to 1890
J. A. McNeil ..... 1890 to 1892
R .L. Hancock ..... 1892 to 1896
N. A. Keller ..... 1896 to 1898
J. M. Turner ..... 1898 to 1902
Robert Liddell ..... 1902 to 1906
Joe M. Copeland ..... 1906 to 1910
James Matthews ..... 1910 to 1914
Geo. R. Crews ..... 1814 to 1918
Polk Mobley ..... 1918 to 1922
Chas. L. Payne ..... 1922 to 1926
G. A. McNeil ..... 1926 to 1930
Jack Wallain ..... 1930 to 1932

County and Circuit Clerks

T. L. Martin ..... 1873 to 1884
W. H. Smith ..... 1874 to 1878
Robert Liddell ..... 1878 to 1886
W. E. Spence ..... 1886 to 1892
B. B. Biffle ..... 1892 to 1896
Geo. W. Seitz ..... 1896 to 1900

The census of 1900 showed to be sufficient for the office to be divided and a County Clerk was elected.

Circuit Clerks

J. K. Browning ..... 1900 to 1904
Ira C. Langley ..... 1904 to 1908
W. O. Irby ..... 1908 to 1912
C. M. Spraggins ..... 1912 to 1916
W. E. Daniels ..... 1916 to 1920
L. A. Braden ..... 1920 to 1924
T. A. French ..... 1924 to 1928
O. C. Grider ..... 1928 to 1932

County Clerks

Joe M. Copeland ..... 1900 to 1906
Polk Mobley ..... 1906 to 1910
O. R. Winton ..... 1910 to 1914
Chas. L. Payne ..... 1914 to 1918
Wm. B. Burton ..... 1918 to 1922
C. W. Pollard ..... 1922 to 1926
L. J. Langley ..... 1926 to 1930
E. R. Winton ..... 1930 to 1932

County Collector

S. P. Woods ..... 1930 to 1932

County Treasurers

William Little ..... 1873 to 1874
James Blackshare ..... 1874 to 1878
John Bearden ..... 1878 to 1880
N. J. Burton ..... 1880 to 1882
W. S. Blackshare ..... 1882 to 1884
J. S. Simpson ..... 1884 to 1886
A. L. Blackshare ..... 1886 to 1890

(Continued on last page)

That Clay County Traditions
May be Preserved

E. G. WARD COUNTY JUDGE	J. B. BLAKEMORE MAYOR OF PIGGOTT
T. A. FRENCH DEPUTY PROS. ATTORNEY	KELLY L. BRADHAM MAYOR OF RECTOR
JACK WALLAIN SHERIFF	WYATT JOHNSON MAYOR OF CORNING
EARL MIZELL TAX ASSESSOR	RALPH PARRISH CHIEF OF POLICE Corning
L. E PARSONS CIRCUIT CLERK AND RECORDER	W. W. HARMON CHIEF OF POLICE Rector
O. E. VANCIL CONSTABLE	DAVE UNDERWOOD CHIEF OF POLICE Piggott
W. H. KNIGHT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE	LUKE McLESKEY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Foreword

CONTRARY to the opinions of the fashionably skeptical, and the county intelligentsia, this book is out. This is a book of history, and, like those objectionable ones of our school age, has dates in it. There will be many mistakes found in the dates.

The collecting of the dates, and the information that clothes them, was begun ten years too late, for most of the county's early comers are gone. Most of the dates have not been recorded and man's memory, prone to remember what its owner wishes, and fallible as it is, has furnished them. So there will be many errors, and those of you fond of finding them in the printed word, by all means buy this book; it will give you intense pleasure.

There will be other mistakes, too. Credit for this or that may be often misplaced or no credit given where it is due. Often dates or incidents are left out because of too many conflicts.

I have not commented either in a laudatory way or to great length on the physical seductiveness of this county nor on the "progress of enlightenment," be it mechanical or as you will. That is reserved for "puffs" in special editions, and then too, the unfolding of world history comments on it best.

Thanks are due the many old timers who have gone far back to remember this history. Many others, those younger, have helped too. All can not be mentioned here, but I would like to mention "Billie" Cochran, Walter Macon and "Dick" Copeland of Rector; three old timers who helped.

John Morrow, "Cal." Carpenter and John Harris at Boydsville. Uncle Joe Latta of Pollard, and, in Piggott, two young men, C. M. Harris and Victor Wright, both have helped and have long been students of Clay County History.

ROBERT T. WEBB
Piggott, Oct. 21, 1933

Robert T. Webb, Bruce Brown and
Patsy Truscott, Publishers.

Shiras Bros.' Print Shop, Mtn. Home, Ark.

History of Clay County, Arkansas

EARLY DAYS

In the years around 1800 restless men under the leadership of Dan Boone made many trips to the westward and south of the Kentucky frontier. Dissatisfied with the security of half a dozen cabins and the civilizing effects of two score of peoples, their trips would entail many weeks and sometimes months. Those that returned would be scarred, lean, and clothed in animal skins and they brought with them many stories of the land west of the Mississippi—the teeming wild life, fertile soil, heavy forest and the Indians, friendly and with a high order of civilization, as yet untainted by white men.

Long before that time DeSoto had come and gone, stalking over much of Arkansas in his Spanish arrogance and dying in the southern part, leaving behind Spanish cutlasses, coins, and armour to puzzle us.

Too, Pere Marquette, for God, and Joliet, for France, had come down the Mississippi in a dugout; the first planting a cross and the second a flag for their respective gods at the mouth of the St. Francis River.

That early promoter and currency gymnast, John Law, had fallen from favor with the French Louis and his bubble of colonization on the Arkansas River had fallen with him; its log buildings melting back to jungle again. And it was later that Dan Boone spurred by his Anglo Saxon restlessness, ranged the woods of this state on moccasined feet. The Mississippi Valley was a French posssession to be given and received from Spain at will.

In 1803 Jefferson and the United States secured the Louisiana territory, and the French adventurers stopped coming and going across it. The continually growing settlements in Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, pushed westward the more restless pioneers. In 1819 the United States formed the Arkansas territory.

The Indians were pushed back too, and in 1829 a military road was cut through from Helena toward the west. Then another was run south from St. Louis towards Little Rock. It ran along the top and eastern edge of Crowley's Ridge. The roads were built for the Indian removals from Mississippi to Arkansas and Oklahoma territories and for the facile moving of troops across the new purchase, should it need to be protected. People later living along this north to south military road saw troops pass up and down it but they were southern and northern troops moving against each other. It was only a trail cut through heavy timber and, in this country, it came to be known as the Courier trail and later the Post road.

Probably the first settler and the date of his coming is lost to us. There are always those first comers, trappers and born nomads who, coming alone, build their cabins on the sand ridges in the bottoms and along the creek valleys in the hills, and sufficient within themselves, live and die never knowing that others come after them; or without being known to those others until one of them finds an empty cabin, already decaying and much older than his own.

In 1836 the territory was formed into the state of Arkansas with much wrangling, horatory, backhouse verse and parlor conversation, at that time and since, about how the name should be pronounced. Authorities differ as to the name's exact origin, attributing it to the Indians, the French and to that great leveller, local pronunciation. The country was often referred to by the French as Arcancea, Arcana, and after an Indian tribe, Acancea. The name is the seed from which the present one has grown.

Before the Arkansas territory became a state, men that we have record of had come and settled in the present limits of Clay County. Watson "Potter" Forrest, had come with his brother, Abe, Elisha Fly and Jim Kennedy, from Tennessee. Of the last two there is no other record but the Forrests settled first near Boydsville and a few years later moved to near the present Pollard. The land they settled on was government patent land. These people came in a single wagon drawn by oxen and the passage was long and circuituous. The heavier timber had to be avoided or threaded through to find passage for the wagon.

In the same year, 1831, another man

came and settled on Heel String on Black River. It was John Griffin, who lived to see communities grow up and replace the forest that to his knowledge held no other human being when he came.

A year or two later J. J. Griffin was followed by Abe Roberts who settled two miles west of Corning's present limits. In the eastern district Henry Halcomb, then four years old, came from Tennessee with his father Asa. They first settled on the old John Johnson place near Boydsville. That was in 1835, one year before Arkansas became a state.

There was then two ways of coming. Either across the Mississippi at Helena and then by land travel across the swamp and on to Crowley's Ridge, or by White River to old Jacksonport,—long gone, but then a growing river town, then up the Black. In 1835 a trading post had been started at Pocahontas.

River travel had just become popular in 1811-12 when the quake occurred in the Mississippi Valley. In an old history there is a graphic account of experiencing the quake by three people rafting down the river. They were below New Madrid when the first tremors began. The banks of the river started to move about, sand and sulphur smoke were spewed up from what a moment before had seemed solid earth. Then the river current turned back on itself and the raft began to float upstream. The banks rose and fell, there was the gurgling of water and subterranean booming. Whole forests along the river disappeared but for the tips of the tallest trees, and water filled in where the forests had been. The people on the raft, helpless with their oars, were carried upstream almost two days; the heaving and undulating banks offered no place to land and they were helpless from superstitious terror.

Sulphur fumes, dust, sand and smoke hung over the Mississippi Valley and with the continual sucking and booming from beneath the earth's surface, it was like one imagines the earlier earth must have been. The huge Reelfoot Lake was formed and the tree tops still stick above the lake's surface. A long chain of sunken land was formed in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri along the river. In Clay County the string of lakes around Corning was formed.

This earth's shifting caused river travel to become unpopular and New Madrid, a coming river town, was almost depopulated. Many stories based on superstition and people's animal fear grew and came to be associated with the river and swamps along it. Even today you can hear stories, bordering almost on the folk, of dark violence and mystery connected with "Nigger Wool Swamp." This quake affected Clay County in that people crossed the river on ferries, avoiding boat travel, and came down the highland, causing extensive first development to be started along Crowley's Ridge.

Crossing the swampland from the river was difficult and could only be made in dry years. There were many sloughs, bogs and rivers and, more impentrable yet, was the forests of huge close-grown trees. Even by a slow picking of the way, there was much work, cutting out a passage and fording streams. But the pioneers reached the "ridge" and then there was the military road, wandering and close-grown with brush, but like a wide-flung highway of easy travel after coming out of the bottoms.

Elihu Davis, coming from Tennessee in about 1836, settled near the present Greenway. And near Boydsville the first Charlie Bradshaw had started a small clearing that later was to be, for a short time, the building site for the county seat.

After these men there is no complete record of those who followed. There is no chronological order but they can be listed briefly in the 40's and 50's. The steady flow of home-builders who came in the next two decades was not stopped until the Civil War.

This second group of first-comers found the forests unbroken, for the few that had preceded them had hardly scarred it with their small clearings for corn raising. Those who loved hunting settled on the edge of Crowley's Ridge.

The men of these first families were usually single when they came; big men, fond of hunting, trapping and eating—to them life was to be lived free—game was plentiful. Timber cutting was only necessary when a cabin had to be erected or a dugout made. There were few other people to set an example of rigorous farming and only a little corn was raised. So the days went by filled with fishing and hunting and sometimes broken with trips to a trading post or back to Tennessee or Kentucky for a wife or family. Returning married, they would raise big families and on the trips to the trading posts, corn and furs would

be traded for shot, powder and food.

The Pocahontas Trading Post could be reached only in dry years by people along the Ridge and most of them went to Cape Girardeau to do their trading. There was little money and coon skins were generally accepted as currency. Each was equal to 50c in "hard money;" deer skins $1.00; bear skins $2.00 to $3.00; and otters as high as $6.00.

In the early forties the slow steady influx began that was to be stopped for a time by the Civil War. The Daltons, Liddells, Malones and Magees came and settled around the river at Chalk Bluff on the Military Road. Dr. Timothy Dalton started a ferry there and later added a store, grist mill and cotton gin.

Near the present Pollard, McElroy had a store and the Lattas, Thomases, Settlemoirs, and Pollards came to join the Holcombs and Forrests. The McNeils, Davises, Paynes, Haywoods, Macks, Nettles, Wards, Whites, Allens and Copelands, Cochrans, Grenades, Jim Campbells, Jim Watsons and Schultze's, came and scattered to make their clearings among the hills over an area from Rector to Boydsville and north to Greenway.

They came by way of two crossings and up or down the "Ridge," their wagons pulled by slow oxen. Sometimes, if it was rainy when they started the trip would take months and many would stop on the way, helping to people Cape Girardeau and Helena, Gainsville and Dexter, Missouri, and some came in later years.

The ridge, named Crowley after Green County's historic "Ben," started near Cape Girardeau and extended down through the swamps to Helena on the Mississippi. Going through Clay County, the St. Francis bottom, matted with timber and swinging away to the east until it merges with the Mississippi Valley, borders Crowley's Ridge on one side, and on the west are Cache and Black River bottoms, alike heavy with timber then, and ending in the first uplands of the Ozarks along Current River. Criscrossed with sloughs and rivers the bottoms were then a jungle of huge trees. These trees were of such size that it is hard to visualize them now, and we are not likely to see trees grow to such size again. There were hickory, white, red and water oak, cypress and gum. Other trees grew there too, but in lesser volume.

In the forties the state of Arkansas had already been partitioned into large counties and the present western district belonged to Randolph County and the Eastern to Green.

And the people, with their indisputably English names, all came from Tennessee and Kentucky, the disquiet of an advancing frontier driving them westward. They settled about in the hills and on the high ground in the bottoms and life was as full as it is now but time was longer and of proportionally less value. Their isolation, the forests all around them and the wild life to combat, made people interdependent, not only for mutual protection, but for help in land clearing, house building and entertainment.

Small clearings were made for the first attempts at agriculture. The trees from these clearings went to make cabins. Their architecture was simple and there was little difference in any of them. The logs were notched and raised to make the walls—the roof was handmade clapboards or sod and the cracks between the wall logs were patched from the inside with split out strips and on the outside with clay clinking. Usually there would be no window and at first before puncheon there were dirt floors. The mud-and-stick chimneyed open fireplaces served for heating and cooking. The old heavy iron spider, Dutch ovens, skillets and cooking pots are still to be found among many families in Clay County. They share equal place along with those other instruments of progress, the axe and rifle.

The logs that went into the building of the cabins were barked and a two-room cabin of hewn logs, was, in early times, a mark of affluence and distinction. The cabin doors were of split boards and hung from the top on wooden hinges or else was leaned against the opening and set aside and replaced with coming in and going out. In winter it was hard to keep the cabins warm and often people would wake in the morning to find snow on the floor and bed that had come during the night.

In the clearings, corn, more than any other food, was planted. There was a little tobacco, potatoes and wheat, but all for home use. There was no market and barter was direct. A man who was adept at making shoes might not raise much corn and there was exchange.

At first there were no grist mills nearer than 75 miles and meal was made by drawing the corn, still on the cob over a rougher side of a piece of tin studded with

nail holes. This was called gritting. Corn pone was the chief bread. A few potatoes were saved for winter; some fruits, chiefly wild, were dried; and these, with game, were the only foods. Preservation of foods by canning was not known here then. Corn meal was the basic food and game from the surrounding woods filled gaps in the menu.

Some of the early families brought a few hogs, cattle and chickens. Often the hogs would stray, those surviving the wolves and panthers, becoming wild, and with their ownership lost, people would hunt them for food as they did bear, turkey and deer.

Potter Forrest, long gone, in telling Jerry Holcomb present Justice of the Peace of Payne Township and son of the early comer, Henry, of early times said that often there was no bread. If the crops were bad and no corn grew people faced a winter and summer without even corn meal. Bear, squirrel and deer meat was the staple and the more delicate, lighter breast of a wild turkey, fried in a dry skillet, served as bread.

A few yams, (sweet potatoes) were saved for winter and sometimes a pumpkin. Mrs. Susan Huston, daughter of Mrs. Lucy Lowrance, said that when the hens were indisposed as they sometimes are in the late spring, her mother would go to the woods or pasture and collect quail eggs for use in making bread. But that was in the later fifties when bread had come into common use. Today with the myriad dietic theories, and the bugaboo of many diseases due to restricted diet placed before us through advertising and news accounts, it is hard not to wonder that this and all pioneer countries are not deserted wastes, given over to the graves of dyspeptics, the unpeopled woods and slumping, decaying shacks.

Whit Haywood, living five miles west of Piggott, remembers that when he was a boy they would have as many as six deer at a time hanging in their smokehouse through the cold months. Hog meat furnished lard and a change from venison and bear steaks.

When the crops were maturing it was hard work to protect them from the deer, and bear. Uncle Willie Boyd, living near Chalk Bluff, tells of driving stakes into the ground around the fields and sharpening them to impale deer that tried to jump over to get at the wheat and corn. Coons and squirrels took heavy toll of the first crops the early settlers raised.

So, farming, fishing and the extension of the clearings around the cabins took up the summer months and in the winter there would be hunting and trapping. Those who owned hogs and cattle were ever on the watch to protect them from bear, panther and wolves. Even in summer the wolves would come in daylight to the pens and carry off calves, sheep and hogs.

The first church to be erected in Clay County was Salem church, 2 miles southwest of Boydsville, built in 1842. It was a Missionary Baptist one as was the second, New Hope church, west of Pollard built in 1846. In the beginning the buildings were small log ones set down on a hill in the woods. There would be a small clearing around it and rows of extending mounds that was the grave yard. Uncle Joe Latta, coming to near Pollard in 1854 said that he remembered old timers saying that the grave yard was started and had grown to some size before the New Hope church was built.

On Sundays people would hitch up teams or yoke of oxen early and come the long miles over the faint hill trails to the church. Before they reached it those already there would hear the creaking protest of the homemade wagons being echoed down the valleys and about the hills. Living apart in their scattered cabins, people were glad to see other people and there were shouted greetings, much laughter, and joking before church took up.

The sermons were long and afterward there would be an intermission before church in the evening. The men would gather to exchange talk and strong tobacco and discuss farming and hunting. The women had the growth and merits of their children to compare, and clothes and housekeeping. Friendliness and sentiment, not dissipated by contact with many people, was allowed to flower full and the many friendships formed by these weekly or monthly contacts was lasting and of remarkable sincerity and strength. John G. Taylor, 1853, was one of the first ordained preachers to come into Clay County.

The men who were the first preachers were usually not ministers, but men of pronounced religion, some fluency, and an acquaintance with the Bible. The Bible was one book, usually the only one, that was universal among the first comers. And people were well acquainted with its con-

tents. In the coming together of people it was discussed and men who could quote its contents and apply them were considered educated by other men.

In this period neighbors were rarely nearer than five miles to each other and 15 miles was not considered far to the cabin and clearing of the next settler.

The social life was simple; almost aesthetic in its simplicity. In the house raisings people would come by ox wagon from as far as 20 miles to help raise the logs. The host would furnish the food, the women would help the hostess with the cooking of it and the men would roll and raise the logs. Logs were split out to make the rough puncheon floors and pegs were whittled out to fasten the logs together. Work would be intermingled with play. The isolation on regular work days, the ceaseless toil to beat back the forest, cultivate crops in the lush growing soil and protect it from the wild animals was hard and freedom from it to mix with other people was a good thing to be looked forward to. It was a vent and outlet.

The cotton, grown for use in making clothes, was carded, then spun and woven into cloth by the women. Here and there would be a man who made shoes; a shoe cobbler. The hides from the cattle were roughly cured and tanned for making the shoes, and the whole leather was then used. The shoes or boots were heavy and stiff, held together by many nails and some string. In wet weather the leather would stretch and grow limp until it was hard to keep them on. When it was dry again the shoes would be wrinkled and knobby and tight. But they were very serviceable, given to lasting indefinitely and two pairs, being worn on Sundays and in winter, would last almost a lifetime.

This utility was observed and extended to many other things, even people. In young men, dexterity with a plow, axe or rifle was more admired than graceful indolence or satorial elegance. The ability to cook, make clothing and work in the fields brought young ladies more husbands (collectively speaking) than the brevity of their clothing. Feminine charm, practically inescapable inits appeal, was as sincerely appreciated then as now, but such charms were even more valued by the young ladies themselves for they clothed them completely and securely, and so when a man married a woman he married a fully clothed one.

The first settlements wheret five or six families settled in a general area of five miles were Chalk Bluff, Oak Bluff or Scatterville, near McElroy's store, and one settlement with a lost name near the present Peach Orchard. There was still some superstition about the dark swamp land on either side of Crowley's Ridge, water covered the bottom land, all but the higher sand ridges, throughout the whole year except in drouths. The early settlers had no secure doors; windows were holes in the walls to be closed with boards at night and glass or window screens were unknown. So with the mosquitoes, an incredible number of snakes, the swamp diseases and the ever present water there was little settlement in the bottoms. Bears, wolves, panthers, and less dangerous game were there in abundance and the more bold men, fond of hunting and wishing to be near the best place for it, settled along the western edge of Crowley's Ridge where it goes down easily into the bottoms.

In a bear chase, packs of large hounds were used and the pursuit would often carry the hunters deep into the bottoms, through endless miles of waist-deep water and deeper sloughs. Forgetting the past in the immediacy of the present, people often say that we had no floods in early times before drainage ditches, and that now since the ditches coming we are yearly inundated, but before the ditches coming the water from the spring rains would come down the Mississippi, St. Francis, Black and Current River Valleys and spread out over the woodland to swell the waters already there. The trees and crooked rivers checked its flowing away and it would be fall before the water dropped back to normal again in the woods and sloughs. There was no great flood in the rivers, of course, with water everywhere.

It is probable that Chalk Bluff began to form into a small cluster of houses first though there is a better and earlier record of the people settling near Scatterville or Oak Bluff.

George Moreland, writing much and well of early history in Arkansas, has a story in June 1929 Commercial Appeal about Chalk Bluff. He had the privilege of talking to Uncle Webe Magee, who came to Clay County in 1855. Uncle Webe is gone, now, like many of the old timers have in the past two years, but his memory was good in life and we lost one of the best authorities on Clay County history when he went away. Mrs. Scott "Aunt Sarah" Lid-

dell, aged 83, daughter of Dr. Timothy Dalton, gave additional information.

Coming down the early trail along the "Ridge" from the north, the St. Francis (anglicized from the French name) was the first river of any size that the settlers encountered. When the crossing was named is not known, but the high chalk colored bluff where the St. Francis cut from west to east through the ridge gave it its name. Abraham Sietz had the first crude ferry of logs and erected a small log store where a few of the simpler things were for sale.

The river was easy to cross at the bluff and it became a gateway to northeast Arkansas. If the old timers were here to tell of the ceaseless march of the restless people seeking something better beyond the horizon, there would be many stories of herculean effort, mighty loves and hates, hardships, violence and fine courage that are lost to us now.

Sietz came in the early forites and was replaced as ferryman before the middle fifties by Dr. Timothy Dalton who married his daughter. The trail split on the Arkansas side of Chalk Bluff, one going to Pocahontas and the other to Gainsville.

Near Chalk Bluff two churches were built. The Missionary Baptists, for once, were not ahead of all the others as they usually are in pioneer communities. Mount Zion church was built between 1848-52 and was Methodist. It was moved in 1857 to Gravel Hill and then it was moved again, still retaining its name. The Baptists moved on to the second site the Methodists vacated, calling their church Gravel Hill, and the Cumberland Presbyterians in 1857 built a church on the site of the first Methodist church and called it Chalk Bluff Church. The Masonic order had its hall over this church. These churches are still active and all of them are known in the north-end of the county.

It was at the Chalk Bluff crossing that Singleton Copeland, who settled at Oak Bluff in 1848, was drowned in 1855. Copeland and Neal McNiel, partners in stock, were driving home some hogs they bought in Missouri. The ferryman's house was on the Arkansas side and back on a hill from the river. It was at the noon hour and after much calling they could not make him hear. As the hogs had crossed and were straying Copeland reigned his horse into the river after them. The horse was a strong spirited one and swam easily. When they were within 20 feet of the Arkansas bank the horse plunged, fighting with his feet, and then went under, taking the rider. A few seconds later the horse came up ten feet down stream without Copeland.

As the minutes passed and Copeland did not come up, McNiel on the far bank became frantic in his helplessness. The disappearance had been so sudden and unexpected in the placid swamp stream that it smacked of the supernatural, or of hitherto unknown water animals. At last the ferryman came; the news went out along the Ridge and people came to help search the river. It was five o'clock in the evening before the body was found and then it was a few feet below the surface at the place where the horse went down. A long snag, pliable and strong from long submersion in the water, had become entangled in Copeland's clothes and held him beneath the surface. The clothes had to be cut to free the body. Copeland was post master of the Oak Bluff post office at that time and also ran a small store in addition to it. He was a member of the Masonic order of Pocahontas and was the first man in Clay County to be buried with Masonic rites.

So the Dalton's, Sietz's, McCleskies, Wagsters, Liddells, Oxleys, Morrises, and Magees lived around Chalk Bluff prior to the war. Doctor Dalton had a grist mill and cotton gin run by water power, but the current was swift and cut into the bank. This caused continual expense and Doctor Dalton finally discontinued it. The present Frank Dalton is a continuation of this early family. The Liddells were later active in politics, too, Bob becoming sheriff. For a long time W. Scott Liddell was postmaster and merchant in St. Francis.

Oak Bluff, on the Courier Trail, was three miles northeast of Rector on the western edge of Crowley's Ridge. It was called Oak Bluff postoffice. After Singleton Copeland was drowned in 1855 Captain John Allen became postmaster and moved the office to Scatterville, which was two miles north of the present Rector. It came by its name because one man put a store at the foot of a hill, another put one at the peak, still another put one at the foot on the other side. The few stores and cabins were scattered about over the hills in a careless way.

Settled close around were the McNiels Allens, Copelands, Mobleys, Snowdens, Waddells, Nortens, Mitchells, Golbys, Whites, Bradshaws, Deans, Rayburns, Whitakers and Simmons. These people were

good farmers. Cotton was raised only for home use in making clothing. Raising it for the market did not begin until after the Civil War. The first gin was only to remove the seed from the cotton and make easier and quicker the work of the women.

The first horsepower sawmill was brought in by John Mitchell in 1855. Lark McNiel bought it and one of the first frame school buildings in the county, 1859, was built from the boards made from it. Major Rayburn brought the first steam mill in 1859.

R. H. Copeland taught the first free scholars in Scatterville about this time. He is still living near Oak Bluff and, the son of Singleton Copeland, is 83 years old. Mr. Copeland says that the schooling, by two and three week "fits," never amounted to over six or eight weeks in a year. Teaching required no examination, certificate or degree, but only the general approval and respect of the parents whose children attended, and not least important, the ability to whip the larger, more husky boys. The historic three "R's" were taught and during the school hours the students sat on the durable but hard benches made of a split log with the legs stuck on it.

At the same time Copeland started teaching in Oak Bluff Township, Bob Liddell had begun in Chalk Bluff Township.

In speaking of the part women played in early days Uncle Dick Copeland shook his head. Looking backward he said, it was impossible to understand how they did it at all. All the families' clothing was to be made from the raw cotton; the cooking was to be done and the house cared for and women helped their men in the fields. In addition to this there was child bearing and tending to children after they were born. People were prolific in that period. The potentialities for expansion to the west were unlimited and families were known to have as many as 23 children. Teddy Roosevelt later but summed up a popular habit when he advised big families.

The Allens, the Knights, Simmons, Bradshaws, McNiels and Mobleys brought negroes with them from Tennessee and Kentucky.

There was a tanyard in Scatterville before the war and people brought hides there for shoe making. H. M. Grenade had the first sorghum mill. The cane was run between two wheels to press out the juice and then brought back through again. This was all done by hand. The juice was then put into large iron cooking pots over a fire built in a trench. The sorghum was a new sweetening and often served for sugar.

Mrs. Jane Morris, aged 88, daughter of Neal McNiel and sister of the early sheriffs, Jim and George, is one of the oldest people living at Rector. Her sister, "Aunt Puss" Allen, widow of Capt. John lives there too.

Neal McNiel, died in 1857 with heart disease. It happened while he was away in Helena selling a consignment of stock. Following his death the money he had received was returned to his widow in kegs. Exchange was in "hard money" and the kegs, weighing heavily, were marked "Shot" in order not to encourage robbery. Mrs. McNeil received it without loss of one cent yet it passed through many hands along the trail before it came to her.

The first battle of the Civil War in Clay County was fought in Scatterville in 1860. "Little Bill" Johnson and Tom Holifield differed as to the presidential merits of Abraham Lincoln and agreed to meet and fight it out—"fist and skull." Scatterville was a meeting place for many of these entertainments and they were called pitched battles. The preparations for such a fight were very elaborate and smacked of dueling formalities of earlier days. Each participant chose a second, usually a close friend, and they went into battle stripped to the waist.

In the Holifield-Johnson pre-war fight the two men fought until exhausted. After neither could raise a hand the fight was stopped. It was the custom to stop when either admitted defeat, or when the contest became one-sided.

West of Scatterville on the western slope of Crowley's Ridge were settled Bill Gallum, J. C. Boyd, Harvey Baker, Rice Harris, Jack Townsley, The Blackshares, Kings, Lingfords, Bradshaws, Johnsons, Freemans, Smiths, McCoys, Dobbins and Giffords.

About the early settlement around Peach Orchard there is no record. It was snatched from the past by the accidental meeting with an old woman who was passing through the county. She said that she remembered that there was a settlement before the Civil War. It was German like the one that followed much later. The people died off rapidly under the early swamp conditions and the few survivors left. Stumbling through woods about the present

Peach Orchard there are still the last signs of cabins, with here and there a caved-in well.

Coming up to the period of the Civil War the settlement of the county had been slow but steady. Enough people had come in, that the pioneer Holcomb, Forrest, Latta- Baker, Johnson, and Bradshaw families decided that the county was congested with people. After few preliminaries these families, with about 35 others of which no record was obtainable, packed up in the ox wagons that had served for a prior trek, and left their cabins, yawning and empty, their farms deserted, and headed for the panhandle of Texas. The first rest stop on this long trip was at Eureka Springs, even then noted for medicinal springs. The trip took almost two months and these forty families stayed only one night on the windy Texas table lands. The sage covered sand hills and the flat unending grassland looked like desert after the lushness of timbered Clay County. So after one night they turned about and came back; many of them returning to their old cabins and taking up farming where they had left off. This restive gesture was the first hinting of a frontier that was moving westward.

Trails, close-grown and crooked, had been made over the county and postoffices at private homes, were scattered along the "Ridge" from Chalk Bluff to Gainsville. As all the eastern district was part of Greene County the latter named place was the county seat. Mrs. Lucy Lowrance, coming in 1859, had the voting precinct in this district at her home. It was her husband who gave the cemetery that now bears their name, to Piggott.

The few small stores that came up carried little stock. The grist mills were few; usually hand powered, corn crackers or tread mills. Flour was not generally used and when it was the biscuits made from it were served only once a week—Sunday morning.

It was usual each fall to make a trip to the trading post at Cape Girardeau for supplies. Corn, much fur, and some wheat would be taken along to exchange for sugar flour, whiskey, and "town boy" tobacco. A little money would be brought back from the "outside" and a few dollars lasted until it was time to go to trade the next year. The trips in the ox wagons would take from twenty to thirty days, and the child who was allowed to go was indeed fortunate. He would get to see a "big place" and there would be the camping out along the trail.

During this period people were too busy at clearing land and farming to have much time for the leisurely arts. If there was tlitle of the popular thing "culture" (a colloquialism of our day) there was also little time for factional fights, brawling, prowling the wives of others or for chuch wrangling. People were friendly, helped and trusted one another, (and were rarely ever disappointed about it) and were intense, sincere, and not too eloquent about religion. Their religion was a good thing and satisfactory to them.

Many of the people who came were not of the landed Southern aristocracy. Few of the pioneers ever were, lacking the necessary acquisitiveness, they were usually of a younger race than those who create class shibboleths, restrictions and ceremonies. These pioneers, born younger than the others, evaluate other things—freedom—if not of thought, then at least of imagination, and the right to hope continually for improvement in the future and beyond the horizon. But the pioneers brought the idealogy of the aristocracy with them, deeply implanted in their thinking as the mores and gestures of a superior economic group are always impressed in the thinking of a group that has less economics and subsequently less social security.

Some of the early comers were of the "landed gentry" and they served to make permanent the ideals they were taught; and by their assurance came to be the leaders in the county. Two qualities were necessary to men—courage and physical strength. They are good things still, and there was plenty of each then. These qualities contributed much to the building of the county, And to offset the monotonous repitition of too much virtue and industry, furnished much fine drama, too.

These first comers brought with them a high sense of personal honor, an almost inward necessity for generosity and the gestures that accompany it, and the consideration that other people were entities as well as themselves. With the others was the "manoral complex," the desire for many acres, that came from the south, and the cleared holdings of each man was large. Timber was still of no value and too difficult to rid the lands of and the early settlers were in active possession of little more than the small clearing their cabins sat in.

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

So, before the war the cabins, set in small clearings, were scattered along the "Ridge" and at Chalk Bluff and Scatterville there was the first hinting of settlements with six or eight families living near each place. In between the two and south of Scatterville the clearings were more scattered. Getting up in the mornings, each family was a complete entity and the woods closing in all around, cut off the rest of the world. Each family produced almost all that it used, living was arduous but quiet, and as peaceful as man's mind allows. The days would be filled with the work of survival, there would be the woods noises, the morning haze in the valleys and a column of smoke from the cabin's cook fire.

But the peace of this pastoral life was not to last. Early in 1861 the tranquility was broken by the drumming hooves of a running horse—on the Post Road. The way it happened was very dramatic and spectacular. The rider shouted the news of war at the house of each settler, bringing them, wide-eyed to their doors. "To war. To war," echoing and reechoing about the hills until lost in the wooded valleys, sounded very startling and strange. Mrs. Susan Huston, told of it a few years ago and after the passage of so many years there was still the fire of excitement in her eyes, remembering it.

The rider told of Southern secession and of Ft. Sumpter and that the South must fight for right to secede. Before that the probability of the South's withdrawal from the Union had been only sourceless rumors, as vague as dust storms on the horizon, and the unrest due to Lincoln's inaugaration had almost passed away.

Three companies were recruited from the Clay County section, under Captains White, Allen, Reed, and Byers, and went to serve under Forrest, Marmaduke, Price, Stuart and Jackson. Today a few old timers are still living in this county who served in the cavalry under Bedford Forrest.

When the armies of the South were mobilized younger men were called first. Clothing was mended and rolled into small packs. There was the pain and pride, the avowels and excitement of parting that we have known since and remember from 1917. Then in groups the men went away, on foot or horseback, according to means, going south down the Military Road. Women, the children, and that older men watched them go until the woods and the trail's turning shut them from view.

Those left behind turned to the task of keeping together a home and making a living. The older men turned back to where they had left off years before and took up the brunt of the field work. The women spun, wove, cooked and helped in the field.

Few people from the north settled here prior to 1870 and the earlier ones coming in from Tennessee and Kentucky, Georgia and Mississippi, were unequivocally southern in sympathy.

In Clay County home guards, or militia, was organized and drilled regularly. It was made up of old men and young boys. A local man, Sarver, a southern fire brand, headed one of these companies. No major battle occurred nearer than New Madrid. Mrs. Huston, a little girl in "pig tails," remebers hearing the guns rolling boom all day long during a fight along the Mississippi River.

Communication in that period, especially mail, was expensive, irregular and in the back regions, haphazardous. Little news came back from the front. There would be an occasional letter, notice of a death, or being moved here or there in the south, but the days rolled into months and the first year passed and there was no news of sons, brothers or fathers. The suspense grew into aching wonder. There were vague stories of battles won and lost, and of slaughter. Then the call came for more men—for a great concerted drive on the North, it was said—but it told the story of battle toll; of men that would not come back. There were less men to answer this second call and they were younger and older than the first group.

Again women watched their men; sons and fathers, go away down the trail and then turned again to working. Traplines, the axe, the plow and rifle went into the hands of tottery old men; young boys, snatched from childhood by necessity, and women.

Working as best they could, there was too much for these few to do. There was a sense of gaunt desertion about the homes and the woods began taking back for its own once more the farms and small clearings. Grim women came and went from the cabins and only small patches were cultivated. Cattle strayed and few came back

from the forest, the buildings and fences slumped and leaned from lack of repairs. The clapboard roofs, loosened, whined in the wind, and food became scarce.

That obtainable was the simplest kind. Salt from necessity became a rarity. The women removed the top soil from the smoke house floors and boiled it for the salt wasted in meat dirppings of more prosperous years. Sassafrass tea substituted for coffee, as did acorns, wheat, corn and sweet potatoes after they were parched before the fire.

Missouri divided in its sympathies, soon fell to northern soldiers, and Cape Girardeau, the trading post, was cut off to those of Northern Arkansas.

As the war advanced and southern armies lost men they could not replace the fighting front advanced deeper into the south. People living along the Military Road saw both southern and northern soldiers come and go. On the Arkansas side of the St. Francis River southern pickets were stationed up and down the Military Trail to relay the news of the Northern advance. In Missouri northern pickets were stationed along the trail. One of the southern pickets stayed at the home of Mrs. Lucy Lowrance, mother of Mrs. Sam Huston, and Mrs. Susan, a little girl then, would replace him on the watch while he ate. There was much advancing and retreating of troops and Josh Bare, pioneer Piggott citizen, moved into the bottoms to be away from the trail. With each passage of men all the food, stock and guns that were not hidden, would be taken by foraging squads. People hid everyhing of value in woods, brush, haystacks and ditches.

Uncle Jack Pollard, of near Piggott, who died only recently, was a youth then, fond of making paw paw whistles. Making one of these he was going blithely along a creek, blowing it. A squad of foragers, hearing the whistle, thought it was the Southern sentinels signaling and made a thorough search that ceased when they found Uncle Jack in the creek bed, still playing and giving blasts on the paw paw whistle.

Invading Yankees often camped on the present site of Lowrance Cemetery, just south of Piggott. One of the first people to be buried in the cemetery was a northern courier who had been shot from ambush.

David G. Lowrance was killed in the second year of the war at the Battle of Helena. Brud, William and John Liddell, brother and cousin of W. Scott and Bob Liddell were killed early in the war, too.

Northeast Arkansas was free from the more bloody Guerilla warfare and bushwhacking that went on in Kentucky and Tennessee, but those along the trail saw a little of it. Russ Neely was the leader of some of these parasites but he was more active after the war. Along the Trail groups of mounted and heavily armed men would make fast trips through the county, stealing horses, hogs, cattle, food and anything on which they placed a possible value. These groups often posed as either northern or southern soldiers and with the country in disorder from the war and with most of its men gone, they robbed and killed at will. Just across the St. Francis River in Missouri Guerillas captured and hanged a boy who was hurrying for a doctor for his mother.

At Chalk Bluff a squad of northern troops came to the home of Dr. Timothy Dalton and ordered him to saddle his horse and direct them around to the different homes through the hills. They were foraging for supplies. He had a good horse and saddle, but the horse was hidden deeply in the woods—only a saddle sore, broken down horse had been left in the barn lot. Bringing out his saddle he protested that he had no horse. The lieutenant ordered him to ride the broken down one. While he was catching the horse, one of the soldiers admiring the saddle, took it and left his own, a broken, leatherless stock, in exchange. Dr. Dalton said nothing but took up the saddle and cinched it on. The soldiers let him return home that night and by a peculiar quirk the saddle was returned to him almost four months later. In the skirmish at Chalk Bluff, about which there is a conflict, Tom Holifield, later to become Clay County's first judge, saw a riderless horse coming from the northern side. He recognized the saddle, by its carvings and ornate trappings, as the one taken from Dr. Dalton. Catching the horse, he returned it a few days later.

About the conflict as to Chalk Bluff fight there are two stories. One is that a company of home guards under a man named Sarver, met and fired upon a small band of northern soldiers who had just crossed into Arkansas. The guards were made up of old men and young boys, and retreated after they had been fired upon in turn, two were killed and several wounded. It was not possible to find who the casualties were.

Another, and more likely story, is that the southern commander, Marmaduke, after making a drive through Missouri, was being driven back. Crossing into Arkansas he stationed his men and field guns on the Arkansas bank and prepared to defend it. The northern commander made no attempt to cross and only a mild fight occurred. To substantiate this R. D. Stanley of St. Francis and Victor Wright of Piggott, have cannon balls that have been found there since that time. Old timers remember that a call went out over the county for all men to come to Chalk Bluff and help stop the advance. It is probable that the home guards answered the call and were actually in the skirmish, as a part of Marmaduke's troops. And it is not likely that either a squad of home guards or a squad of northern troops would carry field guns and leave behind cannon balls for us to find.

A rather good legend, told me by C. M. Harris, of Piggott, deals with Chalk Bluff and the retreat of Marmaduke. While in middle Missouri, a rich, slave-owning planter, in sympathy with the south, gave a young lieutenant $20,000 to be used by the commander for the southern cause. Closely pursued by northern troops there was fighting on the Missouri bank of the St. Francis River and the young lieutenant was badly wounded before he could deliver the money.

Rather than have the money fall into the hands of the northern soldiers the Lieutenant crammed the $20,000 in bills into the mouth of a cannon, drove it home with a ramrod, and with his last few breaths ordered the cannon rolled over the bank into the deepest part of the river. There is a cannon in the river at Chalk Bluff and in dry years when the river is low the tip of its barrel can be seen. The legend about this same gun, is obviously of no wide circulation as the cannon has not been moved, the river course has not changed nor the banks been shoveled away by the optimism of prospectors.

Other men who were killed by Guerillas or soldiers were Squire Lynch, an elderly man, Singleton, and a young man named Stephens. The latter was killed while in a lane near his home. He ran at the order to halt and was shot down. All three of these men lived near Scatterville and were killed in the same raid. Lynch was buried by his wife and small daughter. The other two were buried in the woods, with great secrecy. A crude box served as a coffin for one and a blanket was used for the other. Old men and young boys dug the graves while the women were posted on the wooded hills as lookouts. Billie Hardy was another killed near Scatterville.

There were about thirty negroes in Clay County during the war and white men went about sowing unrest among them—trying to get them to leave their owners. About two years before the end of the war two white men came to the farm of Mrs. Neal McNeil, near Scatterville, and asked to see the boss negro. Mrs. McNeil's husband had died before the war, the children were young and there were no grown men about the place.

The men talked the negro into leaving. He was free they said. Getting his coat he came to the house, "Ole missie, I'se a'leavin' you," he told Mrs. McNeil, and went away with the men. Two weeks later he was sold on the old slave block at Pocahontas for $1900.

Only one large army passed along the Military Trail. It was 30,000 men under Davison's command. People along the trail could hear the drumming of marching feet. Uncle Joe Latta said that he was a lad of about twelve then and that an order was sent out to the settlers in the hills to bring their ox teams and help with fording the St. Francis River at Chalk Bluff.

The fear and suspense these early women lived under with their men gone and soldiers coming and going all along the trail makes a long epic of agony.

Mrs. Scott Liddell (Aunt Sárah) of St. Francis, tells of running the northern picket line with her mother, wife of Dr. Dalton. Out of supplies and with little money to buy them Mrs. Dalton put two of the younger children in an ox cart and started to Charleston, Mo. The pickets let her by but she was afraid each time that she would be robbed of her money. Coming back, she hid the few supplies under the straw in the ox cart.

T. M. Cochran, brother of the present Billie Cochran of Rector, volunteered in the first Arkansas regiment at the beginning of the war. The battles he was in make a long list. In 1864, weakened by disease and privation, he came home on a furlough. It was necessary for him to keep hidden and a horse was always saddled, ready for him to ride into the woods to hide at the first approach of northern soldiers. His mother and the younger children kept a constant lookout and would blow a horn to warn him.

After two months he returned to Price's army and served until the surrender of the army in Louisiana. Refusing to surrender his horses, which were his own, he left the army and went to Waco, Texas. He was killed there two years later in some of the violence that followed the war.

Ed Vancil, father of Roy, Osco, and Lon Vancil, all of Piggott, volunteered early in the war. He was living at Black Rock at that time. When the war was over he was mustered out in Missouri. Coming down the ridge to the Chalk Bluff crossing, he and a companion turned off into Cache Bottoms, going home. It was toward the end of a hard winter and ice covered much of the low land. Vancil's companion had an old wound that began to bleed, from the rough trotting of his horse. Wolves took up their trail just before dark and followed them until midnight when they came on a cabin along a slough. The old man and woman living there took them in for the night and fed them corn cakes baked in the ashes of the fire place. This was a rare delicacy after having only parched corn to eat for ten days and Vancil's companion ate too much. Gorging, after his stomach had been empty and flat for so long brought an intense pain. The man began to double up from the pain and to keep him from dying Mr. Vancil walked him all night, round and round the cabin. When the pain became intense the man would begin to double up and stumble. Vancil would force him to stand erect and keep on walking. By daylight the man was no longer sick but he was weak and drained after the treatment.

There was five years of this uncertainty and ceaseless effort to get enough food to live. Slowly men began coming home—crippled and maimed and broken. Those whole in body were wasted in spirit and health. They told stories of a rising tide of southern victories that was dashed to pieces from food shortage, and bullet-thinned troops for whom there was no replacement. There was the blockade, the death of Jackson, the lack of arms, medicine and ammunition, opposition of superior numbers and at last Lee's magnanimous gesture at Appomatox Court House and Grant's answering one. The south had lost but the men could come home. For months and years the men came in; some had been detained in hospitals or prison camps. Some did not come home. No accurate record was kept of casualties in that day and there was always a vague hope that some would come home some day. The mother of Mrs. Eliza Wheeler of Piggott kept a lamp burning in the living room until she died many years later, to guide one of her sons should he come home some day. Other women watched too, for husbands, sons and brothers that they could never believe were dead.

So the war ended, abolishing the name, slavery, and making it illegal to confine it to the black race. With the abolition of the name went some of the lethargy that the institution bred but that applies little to Clay County as there were few slaves here and the frontier had previously been too near to allow their coming.

The men who came back did not return to rest and recuperation but to more toil. The clearings had to be rescued from the woods again and the buildings repaired or rebuilded.

W. Scott Liddell came home after two years in a northern prison camp with scurvy and died earlier than he should because of it and five continuous years of privation.

Within a month after the war was over people from the north began coming in. Some of them came in as carpet baggers to exploit the devastated areas and the credulous negroes, but the most of those who came had returned home after the war to find disruption and change just as the southern people had found it. They were looking for new homes to begin again when they came and many of them stayed to become our most aggressive and active citizens. Some of the people in this county moved away, too, going westward but it was hard to get a record of their going or who they were. The years have closed in too quietly behind them.

With the advent of so many people and the titan effort of those who had to return after the war and reclaimed the land there was a feverish activity this county had never known. The bushwhacker became more active than before and the people, war-worn and preoccupied with rebuilding, were at first little organized to combat them. Arkansas had a succession of governors that were carpet baggers. The abuses that Claude Bowers relates in his book, "The Tragic Era" came to as fine a flowering here in Arkansas as in any other state. Clayton was governor and sent troops here. That will come later and in its time. This country was affected by all this confusion and chicanery in a way that was indirect and is hard to record here.

Marion McNeil, Piggott pioneer builder

and member of an early family, helped in explaining part of it.

In this county, still a part of Greene County, a native white citizen had to pay $10.00 to vote if he were allowed to at all. They organized the Ku Klux Klan here and brought pressure to bear. Gowned and hooded men rode over the country and other men left the country suddenly. So there was confusion, fights and violence—the first period of a pioneer community had passed into the second. People had come who wanted more than a home and the right to their own living.

The age old desire for the thing money represents, after laying dormant on the frontier, was fanned to flame again by the rapid increase in population. The northern people came; bringing their less leisurely living and more agressive business habits.

Judge E. N. Royall came in 1868 from Tennessee with $500 and a horse and became one of the wealthiest and most politically powerful men in this county.

F. H. Wiliams, father of B. E. Williams, came from Tennessee in 1870. In 1872 Levi Ward drove an ox team from Illinois and settled west of Greenway. The Wards have since been active in county development.

Sam Crockett, father of Doctor and John L. Crockett, came in 1873. The town of Crockett was named for this family and they have been instrumental in introducing thorobred horses and mules into the county. John L. living in Rector, has a bushel of medals, awards, and first prizes taken in county and state fairs on stock he has raised.

The western district, previously playing little part in making early history, began to take a leading part in the Seventies. In 1871 the old Iron Mountain (St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern) railroad was extended from Iron Mountain, Mo., to Poplar Bluff, Mo. And in 1873, was extended through Clay County into southern Arkansas. On March 24th of the same year this section of northeast Arkansas was formed into a county. The western part was taken from Randolph county and the eastern part from Green and it was named Clayton, after a current governor of the state.

The first county officials were appointed by the governor, pending the forming of county electoral machinery. These first ones were: T. L. Martin, county clerk; Wm. S. Liddell, treasurer; E. N. Royall, assessor; W. G. Akers, sheriff; Maj. W. C. Grimsby, surveyor; and J. Cunningham, coroner.

With the coming of the railroad in the western district, towns sprang up rapidly along it. Corning was formed in 1873 and was then known as Carpenter's Station to the railroad (after the first station agent) and the postal department called it Hetch City after an early merchant and land owner. The town grew rapidly with the accessibility to the north that the railroad gave.

Shortly afterwards, Knobel was formed with the poineers, J. T. Gilchrist, J. H. Allen and the Sellmeyers, coming in.

The third town in the county was Boydsville, but before it was formed Clayton county had become politically conscious. The first county seat was at Corning. A temporary frame building, 22 by 40 feet, housed the records and it sat near the site of the present brick one in a grove of trees.

Hardly had a year passed before there was a move among the people along the Ridge to have the county seat moved. The majority of the population was still in the eastern part of the county and crossing the bottoms was almost impossible, even on horse back. In June, 1874, the question was voted on. A majority of 316 people was for removal and the old Bradshaw field, where Boydsville grew, was picked as a more suitable and central point. There was such opposition to the change that the records were not taken away and Corning continued to be the county seat. This did not settle the question and again in May, 1877, the county seat was voted to Boydsville by a 561 majority.

This time the change was made. Tom Holifield and E. N. Royall both lived near Boydsville and were political factors in the change. When the records were being loaded into the ox wagons to be hauled across the swamp, there was danger of an open clash. Tom Holifield probably averted it by giving a speech of pacification to the opposing crowd.

Taylor gave 15 acres for the site of the new county seat and J. C. Boyd gave the other ten. By a queer quirk the town was named for him and not Taylor.

Changing the county seat did not change the difficulty of crossing the bottoms, but only transferred it to the people in the Western part. The dissatisfaction continued. It was in October, 1877, that Boydsville officially became the county seat and two years prior to this the county's name had been changed. Governor Clayton

had been unpopular and people resented the name. It was shortened and changed to Clay and today many of the old timers are proud that they have lived in three counties without ever having moved from their first home site.

The railroad's coming in the western part opened up the vast supplies of timber to the market. The railroad, receiving every other section of land on each side of its tracks, went into the timber business through its subsidiaries. Sawmills, stave and heading mills, heading and tie mills, sprang up along the tracks, bringing with it men from the north (some from the south) and east to work in them.

In 1882 the Cotton Belt extended its tracks from Dexter, Mo., into Arkansas. The right of way skirted the eastern edge of Crowley's Ridge and Rector, Piggott, Greenway and St. Francis grew up along it. Their history is given elsewhere and it is unnecessary to repeat it here. There was an unprecedented drouth in that year, the land produced nothing and the work furnished people by the railroad saved many of them from hunger.

In 1881 the dissatisfaction over the location of the county seat had not been abated. Due to the influence of J. C. Hawthorne, state senator, the Arkansas legislature passed an act dividing the county into two districts—western and eastern—with a county seat at Corning for the western and at Boydsville for the eastern district. So the county records replaced the attenders at court as the objects to be carried across the bottoms.

Johnie Harris, Boydsville, was one of the drivers employed by the county to move the records each court term. He said that the first year the division of the county went into effect, there was a plague of black gnats that killed the mules and horses but did not bother the cattle. The records were loaded into the ever present ox wagons and the trip began. The trail was a blazed one, following first one, then another, wandering ridge that ran in the general direction of Corning. The sloughs had to be avoided or forded at the shallowest places. Harris said that the trail twisted about so that he could sometimes hear the creaking of the wagon in front a quarter of a mile behind; or look through the woods on either side and see the one preceding him going back in the direction it had come from. The heavy trees had to be avoided and the worst bog holes were covered with small trees and saplings.

With the division of the county into two districts, Boydsville was no longer a central point, even for the eastern district. The railroad, coming on the eastern edge of Crowley's ridge, left it marooned between the two lines of travel.

After a petition had been presented to the county court in 1888 asking for removal of the seat of the eastern district to Greenway on the Cotton Belt an election was called. Much politicing had preceded this brief summanry of the petition for a change. E. N. Royall's political influence had grown, and the Allens, McNeils, Holifields, Waddels and Copelands had become strong political entities.

Royall and Jim McNeil went to Elihu Davis, who owned and cleared much of the land in Greenway, and offered him $100 per acre for land in the town's limit. They also stipulated that should the county seat fail to be located there, he could keep both the land and money. Davis refused and, in the opinion of many early politicians, lost the county seat for Greenway.

Then Royall bought land in Piggott from Mose Bratcher and Dan Throgmorton. When asked where he thought the county seat would be changed to, Royall would never answer directly but only say he thought "Piggott would be best for his health."

The election to determine where the seat would be changed to was on the first Monday in September, 1888. In this voting no place received a majority and the petition was rejected. In an appeal, Piggott, Rector and Greenway were held to have eliminated other contestants and a second voting was held to determine which of these would have the county seat. In the second voting Rector was eliminated as a prospect. In the third election, to determine between Piggott and Greenway, the first received 954 votes and the second 923. Piggott became the county seat and the records were moved by the late W. E. Spence, then county clerk.

Now that the skeleton of the legislative changes in the county have been given up to 1890, some of the flesh that filled in between and covered it, can be given. In this second bit there is none of the sureness of going in sedate procession out of the pioneer period into that of the first expansion. There is tumultuous confusion. Chronological order is almost impossible unless one lived through it and noted it down in detail, day by day.

First, the railroads merit more mention than just that of their coming. They opened up the country and made much expansions possible.

The old Iron Mountain first ran wood-burning engines. Great piles of wood were stacked along the track at convenient intervals and if the passengers wished to increase the speed of their passage, they got out and helped the crew load up the engine fuel.

When the Cotton Belt was laid through the eastern district, there was much excitement before and after its arrival. Many people had never seen a train and coming to town to see the train was an event.

Stories are told of these first trains and the tracks they ran on that border on creative fiction. Opie Read, who wrote of the obvious in everything, made Arkansas, its people and means of travel famous. He took some of his material from the Cherokee Bay portion of this and Randolph county.

One local story runs, and a very plausible one it is in part, that railroad engineering was in its infancy when these first lines were laid and the bottomless bog that some of the lines were laid across was a preplexing problem. It was finally solved by imitating the method of road building the pioneers used. In a miry place, green saplings, small trees and leafy branches, were thrown down, a light covering was put over them and then the ties and steel were laid.

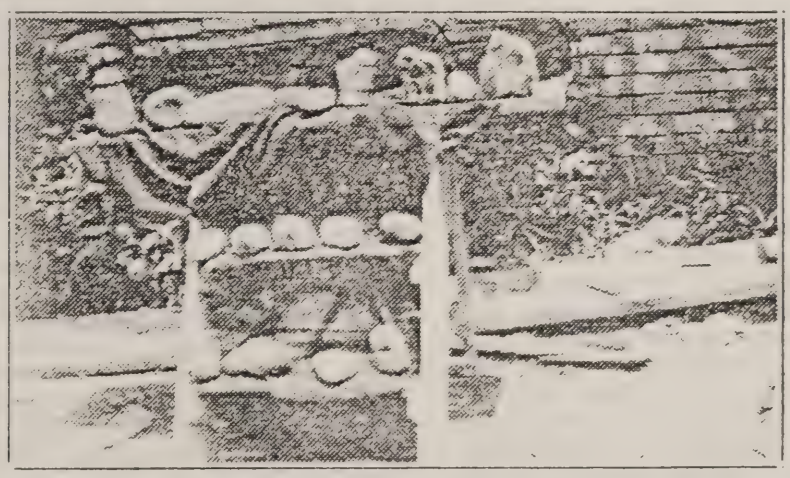
In one place between St. Francis and Piggott, there were many willow trees growing about one piece of swamp. These were cut and put in place and the track laid on top of them. The track was a narrow gauge and calculation on the contraction of steel in cold weather and its expansion under the sun's heat, seemed not to have been fully understood. The first rainy spring after the line was laid, new difficulties begun. The willow leaves and poles were rotting and, laying in the mire, became very slick. Under the spring sun the steel rails had expanded, leaving much slack in the track.

When the train passed over this bit of swamp, the track bed gave way; the track, with the freedom of so much slack, shot off the road bed and the locomotive and its cars fell on their sides. This is said to have happened repeatedly until the tracks were replaced by the standard gauge.

Another fine story is that in the summer when the sun was hot the rails would expand and the slack would run ahead before the train. Those waiting for a train would know it was coming before they could see it, by the slipping and groaning of the rails.

The first one of these little wood burners was called "Old Flint Rock"—dubbed that by some sardonic wit who had evidently ridden one; and whose name is lost to us. The "Flint Rock's" diminutive tooting could be heard along the way, there being the competition of no other noises; and when it pulled up, bucking and snorting and obscured in smoke, its arrival was fully as dramatic as any sliding halt that cowboys ever made in the cinema.

In those days workers in the field would stop and watch the train as it rattled by,



Relics Taken from 90 Graves Opened in an Indian Graveyard Near Corning.

saying to another or to themselves if no other was present, "there goes the train" not unlike we do today as we step into the street to note the passage of an airplane.

The stops to pick up wood, or passengers, or to get back on the rails, were often; and tenacity of mind and body necessary as money to riding on the train. Stops and starts were made with sincerity and vigor. Some of the more impatient passengers would get out anl walk rather than be delayed or maimed in getting to their destination.

The first passenger train was a caboose fastened onto the local freight and, due to jumping the track and turning over, there was no regularity about its running. A not unusual answer to the station agent to the question of when the train would run was, "I don't know, one was due yesterlay."

Another story that is probably fiction is that two barefooted people, a man and his wife, came into the station and plied the harassed station agent with questions. They wished to know the distance to all the towns within a radius of 20 miles. Finally they bought tickets to Greenway, the nearest one to Piggott and only three miles away. Then they sat down placidly on the station bench and waited two hours without asking another question.

The man would get up and look out the window, then, sitting down again, he would shake his head at his wife. Finally, after much waiting and looking out of the window, the man arose and asked the station agent, "Friend, when does this damn thing start?" The agent, overworked until his nerves were bare, could only answer with an inarticulate splutter of curses.

The ribald jokes and laughter at the expense of this little voyager were many but underneath lay an affection for and pride in it. The railroad was another step forward and people felt personally about it much more than they do now about the fast efficient ones.

If one were free with generalizations, he might say the period was one of personal and general pride. Going back before the railroad's coming, there had been little change in the social order, until after the county was formed. Following the war, people began coming in but most of them took up farming, for a few years at least, and the trading posts were still the source from which people brought general supplies. A new post was put in at Dexter, Mo., this side of Cape Girardeau, following the war, and half the distance to trade was cut off.

The mail was still carried by horseback. Johnnie Harris, mentioned before, was one of the post riders. He would carry mail from Gainsville, to Dexter, leaving Gainsville Monday he would reach Campbell that night. The next day he would go to Dexter and, taking the southbound mail, return to Campbell. On Wednesday he would reach Gainsville again. Two trips, along the woods trail, would be made each week.

At that time a few sawmills cut out boards for churches, homes and schools; but timber was still an impediment to the value of land. Tuck Scarbrough, living at Pollard, tells that even in the seventies people did not trade or sell land but only the improvements upon it——meaning the amount that was cleared and the buildings.

There was still direct barter after the war and each man usually lived producing what he consumed. And then the coming of the first railroad and the new people and the industries changed the nature and order of living. Many of the people were from the north and east. With their stricter habits of business they did well in this young country. Bringing the old Puritan ideal that work was a necessity to salvation—and a virtue—they were aggressive and energetic in opening up stores and mills. Not all of these people brought money to invest. Many of them first came in to work in the timber and mills and stayed to become leaders in business.

Land became valuable for its timber. Farming as an industry did not advance and in the bottom portion of the county it was neglected until 1900 or 1910.

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DOWN TO 1933

With the expansion of timber, towns sprang up along the swampland. Peach Orchard and Leonard were formed from timber camps. St. Francis, conveniently on the river, sprang up and outstripped them all for a time. Leonard was the stronghold of Bill Lovejoy, an active timber man. Success boomed with the timber cutting, as did Datto, Palata and Moark later.

Running stores to supply the workers and camps was profitable as they bought by the wagon load and did not question about prices. The new feel of money was good and men went about with hands full of it, and the assurance in their minds that they could make more.

The confusion of new peoples and new methods created an unlimited optimism. The local people took over some of the habits of those that came in and the latter took over some of the Southern social ideals. And over this durable philosophy of the north and the romantic one of the south was cast the influence of the frontier; its bouyancy, breeziness, large gestures and optimism, generated, as they were, by the unlimited resources and places for expansion, the rapidly changing conditions and the elbow rubbing of many people.

The businesses and mills that came in such profusion are mentioned in the town histories.

But this confusion bred factions, partisanship, and violence. Politics became a serious thing and fights that ensued on election nights seemed more a natural result of the electioneering than the voting.

E. N. Royall merits a more detailed mention than he has previously received. A small man he was, smooth and urbane. He had been in the Union army during the war and in 1869 came to Clay County from Tennessee. Before the county seat was moved to Piggott he had already become the most politically powerful man in the county. He would loan money to almost any one, yet he lost very little and did not lose friends in collecting it. John T. Campbell, Piggott, said in remembering him, that he was the most powerful local politi- he had ever known. Very non-commital, his "yes" would elect or his "no" defeat a man regardless of ability. Campbell said that although Royall was wealthy for his day, he never seemed to use his money in getting votes.

Some of the local people, those along the ridge, continued farming, some joined in the timber work and a few went into the mercantile business. But most of those old families went into politics. The Liddells, Daltons, McNeils, Holifields, Sietzes, Copelands, Royalls, Waddells, and Turners come up otfen in the listing of county officials. They followed the southern tendency of evaluating highly the practice of law and politics.

Campaigning for office was free and easy. The candidate would ride about the country on horseback. Passing a field where a man was working he would get off, hitch his horse and walk along beside the man as he hoed or plowed, and enumerate his merits and his opponents lack of them. Several farmers were accused of keeping extra axes and hoes with them in the field during election years so that the candidates might be put to work as they talked.

This became no wide spread custom among the people and it was deserted even by those who introduced it because they could never get to hear the interesting talks of the candidates unless they went to a "public speaking" where there would be the shouted speeches, drinking, and free-for-all fights.

The methods of business of that day were different from the present. In spite of the influx of people the population was still not large and every one was known to every one else. There was still much of the personal element in the contact of

Petrified Trees of Clay County, Collected by Ira Harlan, Piggott.

people. When a man needed money to carry him through a few months in farming or business he borrowed from some one who had it. The transaction was rarely ever noted down on anything more than a scrap of paper.

Unitl 1890 there was no making of notes and there were few mortgages. The same sense of personal pride that made men fight about small things, also operated to make them pay their debts as promised. Whether or not this was natural is another question; but the personal element in business, personal pride, and a feeling of each man that he was an entity, operated to make him meet his obligations. The individual could not sink back into the anonomity of many as he can now.

The stores did business on the same easy scale. When a man needed clothes or food, he would run a general account or give a due bill. After a busy Saturday a merchant might have $1,500 in due bills. With such good business he was happy and counted the due bills as cash. When the time came he collected on them. Up until 1895 there were no bankruptcies due to carrying too many accounts.

Jake Brown, Piggott, one of the first undertakers to come into the county, said that even in the lumber camps, peopled by those from many states, when a man died and was brought in for burial, the other men donated for the expenses or collectively gave a due bill for it. Few people were buried by the county.

Along with this fine generosity about money and the personal pride in meeting obligations, went violence. Violence seems to go with an era of individual pride and honesty. It seems to be of the same romantic nature as the last two, and people call it "barbarism," confusing barbarism with the immediacy of cause to effect.

But aside from such speculation, the violence that seems to go with the opening up of a new country and with the Anglo-Saxon nature, was enacted out in full here in Clay County. It was as much a part of the time as the high evaluation of courage and physical strength was and is so natural to change that there is little about it to be ashamed of. When you ask people of their ancestry, they religiously preface their remarks with a deprecatory shrug. "You simply must not tell this," they say. Then they tell you all about some ancestor—especially if he was bold, reckless, carefree and dramatic in his lifetime. They enjoy telling it, too, and their eyes brighten and change with each turn in the telling as though by thought transference they might be doing the things they tell.

Early men obtained obscurity in the minds of their offsprings only by being meek, mild, pious and self effacing. For them there is no apology made by their decendants—nor is their story told.

The saloon ranks first as a dispenser of fine dramatics and satisfying violence. No greater institution has ever existed for relieving the monotonous repetition of living or for freeing the bombast that lies inside the human mind. In Clay County the first saloons were makeshifts ones, usually in the corner of a country store on some wooded hill top. With the forming of the towns they moved in and took on the orthodox bar, rail and frosted glass. Voted out by local option they returned to the woods again.

When the timber workers came in with money and the necessity to free their mind from the monotony and tension of six days of axe-work in mire and water waist-deep, they went to the saloons. Soon after the shouting, shooting and fighting would begin. Men from one camp would be antagonistic to those of another.

Dan McPherson had a saloon in old Scatterville. When B. J. Bucy came from Tennessee in 1879 he stayed at McPherson's home. The house was some distance from the saloon and one morning Bucy went with McPherson to open up.

It was before breakfast, but a man was waiting at the door.

"Dan," the man said, "I've come down here to whip you."

McPherson finished unlocking the door and walked out into the road. The man joined him and the fight began. After about ten minutes of fighting the man said that he had "enough." McPherson turned without a word and went into his saloon and the man went away.

Before the sweeping out was finished a friend of the first man came in and asked for a fight. Dan joined him in the road and again won. Closing up the saloon, McPherson and Bucy started to the house for breakfast. On the way a man stepped up from the brush onto the path and challenged Dan to another fight.

He was a friend of the other two men. Like them he lost.

Before reaching the house Bucy asked if such fighting went on each morning. Mc-

Pherson told him "No," that the morning had been "very dull" and that most others were much better.

Bucy said that he believed he would go back to Tennessee but McPherson told him to stay—it was a fine country and he would get to like it. Bucy did.

Another bit of drama, more tragic than the first, was acted out in Jack Cassidy's saloon in Corning.

Saloons in the seventies and eighties, were the gathering places for men. There were no drink fountains or cafes with large dining rooms.

Buck Kilgore, for whom Kilgore township was named, was Justice of the Peace. He was fearless in combating the organized band of thieves who stole and robbed around Corning. He was sitting in Jack Cassidy's saloon, then located where Fowler's Market is now, the night he was shot from a side window. The din and confusion was so loud that the shot was not heard and no one knew that Kilgore was dead until a little child, sitting on his knees, was shoved to the floor when the body slumped. The child's crying and a pool of blood that formed and ran over the table and onto the floor caused them to discover the killing. Bent Taylor was later convicted and hanged for killing Kilgore, but much history precedes both the killing and hanging.

Along the railroad in the western district was the trail for horse and cattle thieves; for desperadoes and murderers. They came and went along it and had cabins deep in the swamps for hideout places. Reggie Beloate told me of one of these places called Ring Island.

It was north of the present Ring slough and the Missouri line cut it in half. Sloughs and the river surrounded it, and outlaw guards were posted in the woods so that officers could not get near it without being discovered. Thieves would use this place to hide out after a raid in either Missouri or Arkansas and a log block house was built to house them.

Northwest of Corning was another hideout in the Richwoods district and many of the gang headed by Dr. Anderson lived near Moark. Dr. Anderson came from Illinois to Moark and had a small store in Moss' saloon. He built a large barn and used it to house the stock his gang stole in Missouri and Arkansas.

The doctor was an imposing looking man, educated and intelligent, and was a capable physician when he practiced. He had a liking for drama and violence too, and when drunk would stop the Iron Mountain trains and, at the point of a pistol make the tarinmen dance. One eye-witness, a Mrs. Meredith, said that the trainmen would dance and fling sweat from their eyes while the doctor placed an occasional bullet about their feet.

While drunk he would swagger about the street challenging men and drawing lines in the dust with the toe of his boot, daring anyone to cross them. One man, a Frank Underwood, accepted one of these dares and stepped across the line, the doctor shot him in the head, but the bullet glanced and the man recovered. Living in this day Dr. Anderson would have been a suitable subect for a psychopathic ward, but in those days he was just a "bad man" and some people rather liked him for it.

Anderson insulted a Mrs. Everetts and her son, Marius (about 13) resented it and went to Corning to see officers about having it stopped. The doctor heard of his going and was waiting at the station when a returning train came in. He had a jar of coal oil with him and boasted that he would throw it on the boy and stick a match to him. Anderson walked beside the passenger coaches looking in at the windows. The boy rode in the express car and, jumping from the door, shot Anderson with a shotgun. Seventeen buckshot lodged in the doctor's chest, but none of the entered the heart or lungs.

While Dr. Anderson was still in bed from the wound, a gang of men from Missouri came down on a switch engine and took him to Iron Mountain, Mo. There he was thrown in jail. A few days later, after he had practically recovered, he escaped into the woods. A posse followed, shooting, but could not get close enough to kill him.

In escaping he had obtained two guns and he shot so accurately with them that the bullets knocked the bark into the posse's eyes. A hunter whom the sheriff and posse encountered in the woods, jeered at thir poor shooting and said he could bring Anderson down with the first hsot. The sheriff ordered the man to shoot—shoot to kill. The hunter fired and Anderson fell, shot from back to front, through the heart. Such was the man's tenacity that as he fell he turned, still holding both guns, and faced the posse. It was some time before they were sure he was dead and would go near him. He was sent home to his wife in a goods box with his knees drawn up and

sticking out and his body stiff in death.

The band Anderson headed was patterned after the Ku Klux Klan of a more justiable existence and an earlier period. They wore white draping hoods edged in black. With Anderson's death the gang was broken up—some of them disappeared, some were killed, and others joined other gangs. This gang existed in the late seventies and early eighties. The exact dates were not obtainable.

Another gang that operated in the western district of Clay County was broken up and captured by Jim McNeil, then sheriff, and Jim Stevens, his deputy in the western district. The band was well organized and under a capable leader whose identity has been attributed to several men, including Bent Taylor.

These men patterned after the Ku Klux, as did others, and stole, robbed and murdered so openly that a vigilance committee was organized in Corning. C. C. Estes, son of E. D. Estes, one of the members, tells of it. He said that Capt. C. R. Beloate organized it and that all members were armed with new high-powered rifles. The band, emboldened by so many successes in robbing, whipping and killing, tried to take a member held prisoner, from the county jail. The vigilantes opposed them and they were unsuccessful. One of their members was killed.

After a time the officers, with a posse of men from Corning, cornered part of the band in a one room shack in the Richwoods, near Corning. Jim McNeil, Capt. C. R. Beloate, Jim Bridges, W. W. West, D. N. Thomas, Dr. C.C. Symonds and others were in the posse. Three men were in the cabin when it was surrounded and the firing began. One of them slipped out in the dark to go for help and was never caught.

Jim Bridges, one of the posse, crawled to the corner of the house and set fire to it while the men inside tried to fire down upon him from the window. A heavy fire was kept up by the officers and the men in the house could only tilt the gun barrel and guess at Bridges' position. He escaped without a wound and when the building was in flames the two outlaws came out shooting. They were the two Montgomery boys; Bud was killed and the other was wounded. Later Milt, recovering from his wounds, was sent to prison.

There were many members who were not caught but the killing and capture of the Montgomery boys and the legal hanging of Bent Taylor and Fayette Melton broke up any concerted activities.

Shortly following the fight in the Richwoods a very brutal vengeance murder occurred and clearly showed that some of the gang were still free. Elias Henson was suspicioned of giving information that led to the Montgomery boys' capture. He left his home, near Ring Slough, late one night—headed for Texas. The next morning he was found hanging from a tree about a mile from his home. His body was badly muti-

Clay County's Sheriff.
Jack Wallain, Piggott.

lated, his nose and ears were gone and he was riddled with bullets.

The hanging of Bent Taylor in 1882 and Fayette Melton in 1884 had a chilling effect on the growing tendency of criminals to gather in Northeast Arkansas.

Melton was hanged for the murder of W. F. Hale, an aged grist mill operator. The killing took place on Black River, the results of a long grudge.

Bent Taylor was indicted for killing of Buck Kilgore, who was shot through the saloon window. He was suspicioned of many other crimes and was convicted. A temporary scaffold was erected in Dudgeon's grove near the site of the present Corning court house for the hanging. There are two conflicting stories as to the actual details of the hanging. One story goes that Taylor was chained and padlocked to the floor of the Corning jail and a heavy guard was posted to prevent his friends from freeing

him. By standing up he could see through the window to where the scaffold was being built for him. When he was taken, wrapped with rope, from the jail a heavy guard surrounded him. On the scaffold he was very cool, denied killing Kilgore but admitted killing seven others, and said that he deserved what he was getting. The vigilance guard kept watch on the crowd until he was pronounced dead.

The second version smacks more of the pastoral imagination, but it would probably take bits of both stories to make a correct one.

It tells that while in jail Taylor laughed and seemed more carefree than those who guarded him. Just as he was freed from the prison to be taken to the gallows, the wagon passed carrying the coffin. The coffin sat on the wagon hounds and with a laugh Taylor sprang onto the coffin and rode it to the scaffold.

A crowd had gathered to see the hanging and Taylor looked them over curiously. There was a complete silence but for the stopping wagon, the birds and crickets. Mounting the steps unaided, Taylor helped with fixing the rope. He hated Jim McNeil, the sheriff, and had exacted a promise from him to have a deputy do the hanging. Joe Seats was the one selected. Before the black hood was put on Taylor asked McNeil to promise again that he would not trip the trigger, McNeil promised and Taylor reminded him of the letter he had written to be read after he was dead, then there was silence, the trap was sprung, and Taylor was hanged.

In the letter he admitted killing Riley Black and one other, but denied killing Buck Kilgore. In this second version a second death is supposed to have resulted from the hanging. Joe Seats, the deputy who sprang the trap, brooded on his part in it for almost two years, finally going insane.

The outlawry was almost done away with during the terms served by the McNeils, and the few killings and robberies that followed were usually committed by an individual, or two, and not by an organized band. Credit is due Jim Stevens, a fearless deputy, for getting much of the information that led to the above. In that time doing the work these law officers were, they had little assurance of living long.

In the eastern district there were not the favorable places for criminal hideouts that there were in the western district. Nor was eastern Clay County on the route used by outlaws in going from the north to the southwest.

The killings and shootings in the eastern district were usually between individuals. There were two killings on the street of Greenway.

In Leonard, at a session of the Justice of the Peace court, Mart Vowell, killed Bill Lovejoy, after seven years' enmity. Both men were active and influential in the timber work east of Rector and the speculation about the results of the killings was state wide and later nation wide.

Both men were dangerous in a quarrel and when Vowell was brought to Piggott for trial he prejudiced people against him by his contempt for the trial proceedings. Both men had political friends and enemies and much pressure was brought to bear. The first trial resulted in a hung jury and the judge discharged it. On a change of venue to Green County, Vowell was sentenced to hang. He did not believe until the black hood was put on, that he would hang, but the cold unshaken nerve with which he took it equalled that of Bent Taylor and was commmented on by newspapers all over the United States.

One of the outstanding law officers was Jasper Payne, son of B. B. Payne who came in the early forties, and father of Charlie Payne, present editor of the Piggott Banner. Jas. Payne moved to Greenway from Scatterville and became constable of Haywood township. He, with Bob Neesmith, was active in keeping the rougher of the timber-jacks under control. Moving near Nimmons from Greenway, Payne unwittingly moved into a nest of hog and cattle thieves. When his hogs began to disappear Mr. Payne investigated. While he was investigating two of the thieves attacked him. Knocking one in the head with a broom handle, Payne started for the second who ran away. Many of the old timers remember Jas. Payne as being a bearded, quiet man, addicted to carrying his gun in a front trouser's pocket and not afraid of anything.

But all that went on was not violent during these years. The quiet home people were coming in and devoting their energy to building and expansion. The growth from the timber was of the mushroom type and many of the companies and individuals that bought land let the state take it back for taxes as soon as the timber was taken. Mrs. Roy Oyotte, St. Francis, has the deeds to more than 60,000 acres of land bought

by her father and allowed to go back to the state after the timber cutting.

People came and settled in the towns and on farms and many of them stayed to help develop the county. The dissatisfaction and unrest following the war seem to have been general over the United States.

Before the railroad's coming in the eastern district the trek westward had already started. David A. Mitchell, father of the present Hugh Mitchell of Greenway, came in 1875 from Tennessee and after farming for a year put in a sawmill. Board houses were still scarce, even then, and the revival meetings, quiltings, and hoe-down dances, were still the chief means of entertainment.

The Mitchells lived along the Military road and Hugh Mitchell said that between 1875-85 thousands of people passed down this road, going west. The Mitchells would keep chickens, eggs, milk and feed to sell the travelers. People passed in all kinds of carts and wagons, drawn by anything from blooded horses to milk cows.

D. A. Mitchell and John Winsted owned the first threshing machine along the "ridge." It was an old ground hog type. Dr. M. L. Merriweather, Scatterville, was the first man to own a buggy in the eastern district.

When a man saw another driving through the country in a buggy, his first judgement was that he was a doctor. Only a professional man was considered affluent enough to own one. A white shirt, a ring of keys, or a pencil in the shirt pocket were also indications of a professional man, or at least of an office worker. On the streets we see young boys, even now, who still have the early idea about what keys and pencils indicate, and they feel much better and more socially secure wearing them.

For those who came after the war and before the railroad, there were better means of travel. Across the swamps to the east of the county pole roads had been put down. One from New Madrid to Dexter was called the Three Notch Road. Another came from Caruthersville to Kennett.

The optomism of that time cannot be stressed too much. If a man was not satisfied where he was, there was the assurance that he could go elsewhere and have land to settle on and farm. Resources had hardly been tapped, opportunities were everywhere and the probability of a farm boy becoming president was a reality. Even the younger of us can remember the death of this enthusiastic optimism. In United States history there are repeated instances of men coming from few possessions up to large holdings. It is repeated, in proportion, in the history of this county.

In the western district, D. Hopson and W. D. Polk were coming up towards the pinnacle of possessions they reached in 1920. No two men have taken more from Clay County, or put more back into it. Charles V. Belcate is another man instrumental in western district development.

The first newspaper in the county was the Clay County Courier. It has operated under several names, but was brought in by Colonel Neighbors in 1873, the year the first town was formed in the county. The George Washington hand press bought from the "Scalpel," a weekly in Pocahontas, was brought in ox wagons. J. W. Dollison took the press to Rector and in 1887 moved the shop to Greenway and began publishing the Clay County Advocate. When Dollison was elected state representative in 1889, Fred C. Brennecke took over the paper. In 1890 it was moved from Greenway back to Corning.

When a tramp printer deserted the plant in 1892, C. C. Estes, then a boy, took over the publishing of it. He changed the name to the Courier. Being a minor, and not a subject to making contracts, E. D. Estes, his father, had a legislative enactment put through to make his son legally responsible. With the exception of the years he went north to serve his printer's apprenticeship, Estes and his sons have been in continuous control of the paper. From the old slow presses their shop now has swift modern ones.

E. D. Estes, father of C. C. Estes, was an outstanding character in Corning during his lifetime. He was a small man, red headed and bearded, and wore a goatee. Coming to Grassy Lake, near Corning, from Mississippi in 1873, he soon sent for his family. He had been given a classical education after the southern manner of the day and could read and write Greek and Latin as fluently as English. Men with educations were rare then and Estes soon became deputy county, circuit, chancery and probate clerk.

The offices had not been divided then and the county clerk or his deputy did everything. Estes held this position for twelve years. He was a good penman and wrote many briefs for local attorneys.

He was fond of playing jokes, and although some of them almost resulted fatal-

ly, he did not leave off playing them. One day a tough citizen rode a mule into Corning from six miles out in the bottoms and, coming to the county clerk's office, gruffly asked for a marriage license. Estes filled it out for him but put in the man's name a second time, (where his future wife's should have been) thus legalizing the man's marriage to himself. The man took the license and went away. Mr. Estes warned the clerk that their customer would return.

The irregularity in the names was not noticed until the preacher had almost finished the ceremony. Next morning the man returned as was expected. Mr. Estes watching through the window, saw him coming riding the mule as before, but carrying a shot gun. Hiding in the vault, Estes instructed the clerk to tell the man that he had left the country. The ruse worked. The man was appeased and the clerk issued a second and correct marriage license.

Another habit of Estes was to draw comic cartoons of the attorneys, judges, and contestants while court was in session. Drawing one of an attorney who had made a particularly fine and impassioned address, after the flowered southern method of oratory, Estes pinned it on the gentleman's coat tail. The audience laughed, the jury and attorneys laughed, and towards the end they were joined by the judge. The one upon whom the joke was played finally removed the caricature and after looking at it joined the laughter himself.

The first Masonic lodge in this country was at Pocahontas. The Copelands, Allens, Liddells, Daltons, Lattas, and many early men were members of it. Singleton Copeland was the first man to be buried with Masonic rites in this county.

In about 1859 Lodge 72 was organized at the Hall (Presbyterian church) near Chalk Bluff. When the Masons were first organized in the county the people did not understand the organization and it was as feared as the Ku Klux. Their meetings were secret, often held deep in the woods, and this caused much speculation. The old mound west of Greenway was a Masonic meeting place and for many years stories were told of the gruesome rites people imagined took place there. The mound was in a hollow with sentinel like hills all about it and on meeting nights guards were posted on them.

The cutting of timber went on, but the poor timber and small trees were left and the amount of cleared land did not increase. As timber became more and more the predominant industry, farming was neglected in proportion.

As more northern people came in and headed companies their stricter and more brief business methods were adopted by the native people. Between 1888 and 1895 the first banks were put in at Corning, Rector, St. Francis and Piggott. Prior to their formation the closest bank had been at Pocahontas and Bloomfield and people kept their money secreted around the house, yard, or barn in sacks and iron pots.

At first with the carpet bag period still in their memory, southern people were antagonistic to these northern people. J. M. Myer, coming from Illinois to St. Francis in 1885, experienced this antagonism. He was a quiet man, given to going unfalteringly ahead and before he left St. Francis he had been elected mayor. Moving to Piggott, he contributed as much as any other man to building it up. Educated beyond his time, there are still the books of Voltaire, Carlisle, Ingersoll, Elliott, and Huxley, well-thumbed and with the intangible imprint reading and study leave upon books in his library.

In the western district the early comers from the south usually moved in after living for a time in Randolph County. The northern people came down after the railroad went through and today Corning has more people from the north than any other town in the county.

From 1895 to 1915 the most normal, healthy and permanent, development in the county took place. The first shouting and tumult of opening timber industry had faded away and the business itself had settled down to a steady taking of timber from the land. No better example of the American tendency to pragmatism in economics can be found than was acted out in full in this county during the timber cutting. There was no vision beyond the profit from the immediate dollar exchange. A future $1.25 worth of timber might be felled in order to get at or carry away a present dollar's worth. The taking of the largest timber left the land in little better condition for farming than it had been before. But it was all a part of the optimism that untapped resources and unlimited expanding generate and it has been repeated so often that it merits little more than idle observation.

Except on Crowley's Ridge, and in scattered clearings, farming was still neglected as long as good timber remained.

W. N. Hitt and his son, W. Henry Hitt, came in 1868 and settled near Brown's Ferry. (The government gave land to any one who would clear and farm it.) In the eighties the first levee was started on the Arkansas side of the St. Francis. It was a small one built with team scrapers by the people along the river. There was no levee on the Missouri side and this small dump was sufficient to prevent the yearly flooding of the St. Francis bottoms. Henry Hitt said that each fall for ten years the people would give their work to building up and reinforcing the levee.

Since then Missouri has built two levees, the last one finished in 1932, necessitating the building of larger levees on the Arkansas side.

Around 1910 the first extensive work towards draining the bottoms by ditches was begun. By 1925 the county had become crisscrossed with drainage ditches and today the names of the larger sloughs, that formerly held water the year round, are almost forgotten. The drainage was accomplished at great cost and owners of bottom lands are still paying for it.

The best of the oak and cypress timber was gone, although good gum remained, when Paul M. Pfeiffer came in 1909. Coming back from a trip to Texas, Pfeiffer met Doctor Waggert, an early Rector promoter. Waggert talked well about the country and Pfeiffer stopped off at Rector. Bothered with nasal trouble, he wished to get out of smoky St. Louis and after looking over the country he bought 13,000 acres of jungle and cutover land in the St. Francis valley.

It is between Pfeiffer and Ira Harlan as to who did the first clearing for extensive farming in Clay County, but following 1910 farms began to spread more and more over the bottoms as the ditches were cut to drain it.

In clearing, Pfeiffer used the slashing method, or "Pfeiffering the land" as it is often called. Characteristic of the man, the method grew out of a single line he noticed in a government report. It said that fire killed all plants as well as animal life. So, in clearing, all the trees were cut and allowed to lay with brush and vines growing about them. In a dry fall these cutdowns were burned over. The few large stumps and logs not consumed by the fire were hauled away in the spring and then the plowing would begin.

Pfeiffer said that before the drainage began health conditions were very bad. There were many mosquitoes and people had no screens. Pump water had not replaced slough water for drinking purposes; men exposed themselves in the timber and in farm work and there were many deaths from pneumonia.

In 1929 when the great western land company was going to let its large holdings go back to the state, Pfeiffer bought in the 50,000 acres in Cache and Black River bottoms, making him the largest land owner in the county. Since coming he has erected 125 sets of farm buildings and 160 miles of fence. Taking much from the land, he has put much back into it.

By 1915 the timber business as a dominate industry had definitely passed. The checking up in development prior to the change to farming as the chief industry was interrupted by the world war and the subsequent inflation. Following the war the extreme optimism was revived for a time but it was a waning flicker. Land values jumped and the things that land produced increased in price. There was a great exchange of money but little permanent building in this county. The war momentum reached its peak, and paused, in 1929. It is too immediate to need comment.

All the changes were not physical after 1900. People changed in their thinking; that is, the pictures changed in their outward thinking. The coming of many people, the sinking of the individual towards obscurity, and the dissipation of the sentiment, bit by bit, in continuous contact with people, caused the high personal pride of the people to wane. There was less fighting and there were fewer sincere friendships.

The responsibility for business obligations was parceled out among several instead of centering on one. The banks came in, they were institutions instead of individuals, demanded records and security for their stockholders, and, by the doubt inferred in demanding security released the people from the feeling that they were expected to be honest.

Probably the dominant factors were the Yankee impersonality and sharp dealings in business. Not that the northern people who brought them were less honest than those already here. Benjamin Franklin, sardonically dubbed the "first civilized American," had a long time before taken up broken down Puritan theories and summed them up for the Yankee group that grew up on the Puritan remains.

Franklin in his more or less private re-

marks showed that the dollar was the prime objective. To obtain it with less hindrance, a man could be pious and benevolent on Sunday if he were allowed six uninterrupted days for the obtaining of it. The northern people came in first contact with this "natural"—to people's tendencies as a business philosophy. Money was the objective, but it was to be secured, while remaining within the bounds of scrupulous and honest methods.

But people are not held by the bounds of graceful rationalizing and if they do not carry a theory to its logical fruition in personal thinking they quite often do in mass thinking, be it blubbers or visual imagery, the essence of physical movement or whatever it is. And so it was in this county. The southern people took up the method brought by the northern ones and, with the bringers aid, carried it to its logical finish. As a result, personal pride or honesty—highly evaluated as it was in the 80's and 90's—has sunk low as a social virtue or necessity and the possession of money has taken its place.

Many early business men failed because they were not adaptable to this slow sure change. Accustomed from the old days, to extending general credit and allowing large accounts, many of them failed when people did not pay. So they are not active any more and their businesses are owned and run by second comers.

One bit of the southern ideology that has endured longer than the rest is the urge to own land. Even with the history of the land-poor continually unfolding before our eyes, the social prestige associated with land owning still exists in our thinking.

No one thing has caused so long a list of business casualties since 1900 as has land owning. Men who had been acute and aggressive in other businesses and had made money from them, have continually turned to land to reinvest their profits. If they made more from their stores, they invested more in land, until land rested its full weight on them—land and ditch taxes and fluttering value—and usually blotted out the store or other business.

Land with its immobility and its tendency to take on or sluff off values overnight, has often bilked the bankers, too, and some of the closings are due to loaning too much upon it.

There is much land still to reclaim in this county but extensive development such as we have known in the past, is over and must be replaced by intensive development, with its accompanying attention to details and more severe business methods.

The first great optimism is gone and has left an unpleasant sediment as great and prolonged emotions usually do. But in time, regardless of the stupidity of man's institutions, the lost emotions will be replaced with others; engrossment in, or optimism about something else, perhaps, for we are a young people, not burned out, and the country is young.

The past few years and the present are a delicate thing to comment upon and it is better to leave it to older ones who, with the perspective of years (if with no greater assurance) can look upon it more quietly.

———O———

Some Clay County Pioneers of Fifty Years or More Ago.

1830's

Watson "Potter" Forrest ..... Pollard
Abraham Forrest ..... Pollard
Elisha Fly ..... Pollard
James Kennedy ..... Pollard
John J. Griffin ..... Heel String
Abe Roberts ..... Corning
Elihu Davis ..... Greenway
James R. Hollis ..... Greenway
W. B. Hollis ..... Greenway
Neal McNiel ..... Scatterville
John Tisdial ..... Corning

1840's

Boswel lB. Payne ..... Greenway
Geo. M. McNiel ..... Scatterville
James A. McNiel ..... Scatterville
Charles Bradshaw ..... Boydsville
Wm. H. Mack ..... Greenway
J. Watson ..... Boydsville
Rice Harris ..... Boydsville
A. J. Jones ..... Boydsville
J. C. Boyd ..... Boydsville
Allen Alman ..... Boydsville
C. T. Carpenter ..... Crockett

1850's.

G. B. Holifield ..... Boydsville
David C. Lowrance ..... Piggott
W. S. Liddell ..... Chalk Bluff
J. W. Ball ..... Unknown
G. W. Polk ..... Success
Robert Liddell ..... Chalk Bluff
John S. Magee ..... Chalk Bluff
Stephen C. Michell ..... ?
J. T. Miller ..... Success
Capt. J. J. Allen ..... Scatterville
Joshua Bare ..... Piggott
Dr. H. C. Redwine ..... Corning

Zachariah T. Bearden ..... Scatterville
James Blackshare ..... Boydsville
W. S. Blackshare ..... Boydsville
A. L. Blackshare ..... Boydsville
J. W. Brown ..... Corning
W. C. Cochran ..... Scatterville
Henry B. Cox ..... Scatterville
Thos. J. Crews ..... Piggott
Dr. John Crews ..... Piggott
Wm. A. Davis ..... Greenway
Fredrick Ermert ..... Corning
A. W. Gills ..... Chalk Bluff
Marion C. Glasgow ..... Scatterville
Elijah Glasgow ..... Scatterville
G. G. Green ..... Palatka
Mrs. Elizabeth Renfro ..... Pollard
Jim Campbell ..... Scatterville
William Grenade ..... Scatterville
William "Bill" Latta ..... Pollard
J. G. Dudley ..... Chalk Bluff
Buck Wagster ..... Chalk Bluff
B. H. Mitchell ..... Scatterville
Singleton Copeland ..... Scatterville
R. H. Mobley ..... Scatterville
Timothy Dalton ..... Chalk Bluff
William Dean ..... Scatterville
Clint Cargill ..... Boydsville
R. I. Taylor ..... Success
Dr. G. W. Simmons ..... Boydsville
Willis W. Pollard ..... Pollard
John H. Papne ..... Greenway
G. H. Hovey ..... Pitman
Daniel Throgmorton ..... Piggott

1860's

J. B. Smith ..... Corning
Charles Stokes ..... Scatterville
Giles Bowers ..... Boydsville
Andrew J. Brown ..... Piggott
W. S. Downs ..... Boydsville
I. N. Goldsby ..... Scatterville
John H. Hardin ..... Scatterville
A. J. Langley ..... Chalk Bluff
W. R. Sides ..... Scatterville
J. H. Thomas ..... Piggott
J. F. Mahan ..... Palatka
W. S. Malone ..... Chalk Bluff
Robert I. Masterson ..... Corning
Samuel Masterson ..... Corning
H. J. Weindel ..... Corning
William L. Yancey ..... Scatterville
J. W. Herren ..... Heel String
William Blanton ..... Richwoods
W. R. Paty ..... Corning
E. N. Royall ..... Boydsville

1870's

J .C. Morrow ..... Boydsville
Taylor Crockett ..... Crockett
B. B. Biffle ..... Piggott
Sylvanus Bishop ..... Corning
Larry Boshears ..... Corning
W. D. Bowers ..... Corning
Jacob Brobst ..... Corning
Hiram Calvin ..... St. Francis
Robert L. Coleman ..... Piggott
G. W. Cook ..... Scatterville
Z. T. Daniel ..... Corning
Henry Clay McClintick ..... Corning
W. M. Davis ..... Greenway
James Deniston ..... Scatterville
John C. Frew ..... Greenway
Pierce Galvin ..... Corning
John T. Gilchrist ..... Knobel
Richard Gilchrist ..... Knobel
John M. Gleghorn ..... Knobel
W. T. Griffith ..... Thurman
Robert L. Hancock ..... Greenway
J. W. Harb ..... Corning
W. B. Harb ..... Corning
Marion Underwood ..... Greenway
W. Riley Underwood ..... Greenway
Robert A. Hawthorne ..... Success
Dr. Samuel W. Huston ..... Piggott
G. W. Kelley ..... Corning
Marcellus Ketchum ..... Knobel
D. G. See ..... Corning
Mrs. Laura Daniels ..... Corning
Rev. Garland Lively ..... Piggott
W. S. Looney ..... Chalk Bluff
S. W. McDonald ..... ?
Thomas Cary McGuire ..... ?
Daniel W. McPherson ..... Scatterville
Bustamene Yates ..... Scatterville
Colonel Neighbors ..... Corning
R. L. Schwinegruber ..... Datto
R. E. McCann ..... Datto
Levi Hecht ..... Corning
George Stevens ..... Corning
H. H. Williams ..... Palatka
Francis A. Williams ..... ?
John S. Winstead ..... Greenway
C. W. Woodall ..... Corning
Dr. Thos. L. Pierce ..... Boydsville
Dr. J. H. Seegraves ..... St. Francis
Dr. Edw. Silverberger ..... Corning
Wm. E. Spence ..... Boydsville
Marion J. Tucker ..... Greenway
Dr. Wiley V. Turner ..... Greenway
W. H. Watts ..... Boydsville

1880's to '83

A. Hudgens ..... St. Francis
Dr. Charles Earle ..... Corning
Jasper W. Dollison ..... Rector
N. A. Keller ..... St. Francis
Franz Kopp ..... Piggott
Joseph Mellert ..... Corning
Joseph Whitaker ..... St. Francis
Harvey W. Moore ..... Greenway
John H. Mowls, Jr. ..... Corning

Isaac Reed ..... Corning
Dr. James Rouse ..... Piggott
B. H. Sellmeyer ..... Knobel
Wright Ward ..... Greenway

One bit about the history of Clay County that should not be lost is the coming of Dr. James Rouse. The doctor was the county's first and greatest cosmopolitan and, settling here in his later days, he created the Rouse Springs Sanatarium, a hope of his old age. In the old Northeast Arkansas history (published about 1889) he is written up in the leisurely manner of that time.

The doctor seems to have been a brilliant and a born nomad. Of a family distinctive in war and social life, he was educated in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Scotland. He traveled widely, fought in many wars, performed difficult operations for which he was awarded titles, decorations, and gold ink stands, and was a thoroughgoing cosmopolite. He passed through Arkansas while a young man and never forgot the lush plant life and pleasing climate.

In ill health, he settled south of Piggott in 1883 and became company physician for the railroad which would stop its trains any time to take him on or let him off. He erected a huge rambling house for the sanatarium and grew plants and medicinal herbs around it.

The doctor took care of the victims of railroad accidents and many patients came from the north and east to be under his care. Growing old, he would sometimes fall asleep while filling a prescription. Awakening with a start he could never remember what he had compounded and would have to throw the medicine away and begin anew. Sometimes this would be repeated several times before he would get one prescription filled.

There were many dark stories, based upon nothing more reasonable than people's pleasure in morbid fancies, of the doctor slipping out a night to the Lowrance cemetery, near his home, and removing newly buried bodies for gruesome and occult experiments in his laboratory. Long after the old physician was gone, there were many stories about him and his name was used to frighten the children.

The house, slumping from decay and weathering, was supposed to be haunted and the spirits of many men held revelry in its empty rooms.

The doctor, his wife and son, were buried in the Lowrance cemetery.

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Old time shellrakers on Black River remember when a river tramp and his wife were drifting down the river in a dilapidated house boat, and while raking for muscles for bait the man found a huge black ball pearl. Not realizing its value the man left it in the cabin of the boat. His wife hailed a passing pearl buyer, expecting to get perhaps $5.00 for it. The pearl buyer offered her $6,000. All the woman could say was "$600" in a stunned way. Six hundred dollars was as far as her comprehension of money went.

Black River Camp.

Corning, Ark.

Clay County's First County Seat 1873

Corning, Arkansas

ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT

The colony settlement, a mile or so above the present highway bridge on Black River, was first. With the report that the railroad was coming, Hecht erected a store and cotton gin along where he thought the railroad would come. His guess was bad but he was adaptable and when the railroad did come he built a store on the present site of Corning.

Abe Roberts had already settled west of Corning in the thirties and John Tisdial came with his father, Sherril Tisdial, a few years later.

When the town began to form in 1873, Hecht and George Stevens were in the store business and Stevens was the first postmaster. The town was known as Hecht City. The railroad sent a man named Carpenter as station agent and called the town Carpenters Station. Neither of the names survived. The railroad came through and, as the population was small, the railroad company brought its own men to lay the lines. They were the red and green shirted, construction (Paddy) Irish, with their songs, drinking, quick curses and quick laughter.

When Jay Gould came down to inspect the work he donned a red shirt, bit off a quid of tobacco and cursed and laughed with the best of them. A friend of his, named Corning, came to him. This man was wealthy, fond of hunting and fishing, and the lakes and woods around Hecht City had much game. Forward looking citizens decided so wealthy and generous a man might do something for a town named for him, and changed the name of the town to Corning. But after the road was built and Jay Gould passed through only now and then,—the wealthy Corning never came back.

Just before the railroad came, John Woodall settled within Corning's present limits.

W. R. Paty was one of those who came in 1873 and Dr. Edw. Silverberg was the first physician to come in 1876. He followed Stevens as postmaster and later removed to Knobel and to Peach Orchard. Z. T. Daniels came the same year and served for several years as county surveyor.

With the forming of Corning, the county was created and called Clayton. With the help of railroad men in the election, Corning was selected as the county seat.

The colony settlement was gradually abandoned as people moved to Corning. The town grew up in two parts. One part grew up along the present Front street and the other centered obut the present courthouse site. In between the two were woods. The stores, blacksmith shops, and mills grew up around Front street,—Ireland and Collier, Berger and Company. C. R. Beloate and D. L. Ewing were in the drug business.

This was in 1878 and the nearest point to Corning was Pocahontas. Most comers reached Pocahontas by coming to old Jacksonport by water, and from Pocahontas into Arkansas by wagon or buggy. Roads were most always impassable, and the Post Oak road was a lakey mire. In 1879 H. C. McClintick put up the first hotel, the Illinois.

Dr. C. C. Symonds came to Corning in 1878 and was one of the men who assisted in incorporating the town. The following year W. D. Bowers came as an employee of the big stave and head factory which had been operating in Corning from the first sttlement, and the next year Isaac Reed put in a blacksmith and wagon shop.

Isaac Reed made wagons for the early settlers; made farm implements tools, everyso far from a central trading point. The stave factories and saw mills were necessities in removing the timber from the land so that it might be tilled, but no business was more important to the livelihood of the early settlers than that of blacksmithing and wagon and furniture making.

The old Southern Cooperage company, the pioneering stave mill, was bought out in 1881 by L. W. and L. Weindel of St. Louis and H. J. Weindel came to manage it.

John H. Mowls, Jr., came the same year and put in a saw, grist and cotton mill to take care of the corn and cotton which was being produced on the lands so lately swamp. Hecht and Stevens operated another sawmill, A. S. Berry had one and J. G. Mar-

A. Berger had a stave and heading mill.

The lumber business brought in many people to Corning, as it did to other parts of the county. Jacob Brobst, coming into Clay County some years earlier, was elected Mayor of Corning in 1882, 1883 and in 1888. During this time he served as deputy assessor of the western district, after the county seat squabble had been settled and the county officers had to be represented in the western district by their deputies.

The following year the first hotel was erected in the town. A frame building, two stories high containing 30 rooms, modern to that date. It stood directly opposite the depot and was operated by Patrick Martin. One part of the first floor was given over to the dispensing of cigars and liquors, the latter being quite generously used at that time.

G. W. Kelley had come into Caly County in 1874 and in 1884 he moved into Corning to become a Justice of the Peace a year later. 1885 brought another physician to Corning, Dr. A. R. Simpson. The same year Joseph Dudgeon settled in Clay county and with the steady influx of business toward Corning he put in a hotel, the Dudgeon House, in 1888. The old history of Northeast Arkansas (1889) says that "it contained 23 rooms, all modern" and that it was fitted with a bath room and "all modern conveniences."

Another sawmill was put up in 1886 by S. W. Alexander who was in the hardwood lumber, tie and wagon business in Corning.

The old furniture stock of Bishop, an early dealer, was sold to W. F. Barnes in 1888 and an undertaking establishment added to the furniture business.

Corning had supported a newspaper in earlier days. The old "Scalpel" of Pocahontas had been brought over by Joe Winston, in '73 but in the 80's it was moved away. In 1880 it was moved back to Corning and two years later purchased by C. C. Estes. There are files of each issue of the Courier since 1885, in the office today. One issue contains the announcement that "Peter B. Kyne, (pronounced Kine) is a new printer on the Courier." Kyne was at that time collecting material for his first short stories and when one was published some time later, Corning people recognized the characters and setting of the old saloon days.

The Crystal Drug Co., now owned by P. L. Oliver, has carried an advertisement in the Courier every week for the past thirty years, it was previously the Staley Drug Co.

E. D. Estes, father of the present C. C. Estes, came in 1873 and settled near Grassy Lake. He rode a large black horse through the bottom land from Memphis when he came. His son, C. C., remembers his father telling of how he came in. The water in the woods came up to the stirrups and the trail was so faint he was never sure that he was following it. Estes was widely known as a practical joker. Serving as deputy county clerk, he was situated to give full freedom to his jocularity. One joke remembered by many old timers is when Estes was swearing in a witness. He had impressed the man with the seriousness of being sworn and told him to raise his right hand and repeat after him. "And I do," Estes started, "solemnly swear that I am a liar, a sneak and a horse thief." The man repeated quickly after him and then stopped, catching the meaning of the words. The audience laughed and the judge rapped furiously for order in the court room.

Felix F. Taylor, still living in Corning, came in 1878. He taught school in Haywood township and was the only subscriber to a paper. The mail came to Clayville and people came form miles around to have the Old Missouri Republican read before Taylor came for it on Saturday. Taylor, after teaching school, returned to Corning, later becoming the fifth circuit judge for this district, following the reconstruction.

In 1881 J. C. Hawthorne secured a division of the county into the western and the eastern districts with two county seats. Corning became the permanent county seat for the western district.

When a school house was constructed, Capt. C. R. Beloate aided in getting enough land from the railroad company for the school grounds, and in organizing the first school in a two-room box house. G. B. Oliver was principal, coming at the invitation of Beloate, who was on the school board, Maud Oliver, his sister, came as assistant. The first term was taught in 1877. The Olivers stayed in Corning and have become owners of much land in the western district.

In early days a saloon stood south of the depot, below it were Greens hotel and saloon, and the city hall. On south were the Neighbor's hotel, Cassidy's saloon, and the Hecht Store. Beyond Hecht's was an-

other hotel, the Davis. Second street was forest, and beyond the strip of timber land stood the first court house with the Ireland hotel near by. South of Ireland's stood Hardesty's and Sea's Saloon. Ratcliffe lived west of this group of houses and Tom Ratcliffe, deputy circuit clerk today, is one of the oldest citizens of Corning.

When C. R. Beloate superintended the building of the school house, he was violating the law as there was no method approved by law appropriating the money for Clay county schools.

When the town began to expand, Mrs. Ann Teeter's father, S. Bishop, laid off Bishop's addition, west of the courthouse and extending to the state highway 62 today.

Before the highways opened the country to travel, game was plentiful. Deer and turkey were killed in the present city limits and bear were not uncommon. The roads were impassable, and a pole road made with stringers from the lumber of the saw mills wound about through Cherokee Bay country to Pocahontas.

The first Corning sheriff was named Akers. W. D. Polk organized the first bank, the Bank of Corning in 1894. Until 1885 there were no churches. Meetings were held in the old court house, and later, after the erection of the school building in 1877, in it. In 1885 the Methodists built a church with Reverend Phipps as first minister. The Methodist church of today is on the same site. The second church was a Baptist, organized by Sylvanus Bishop who laid out Bishop's addition. Then the Christian and the Pentacostal churches were organized and structures built.

In the town today, Harry Lasater is the oldest merchant. He was born in Illinois in 1864 and came to Corning in 1890 and has been in the same business during all that time. D. Hopson and W. D. Polk have both done much toward building the town. J. M. Oliver is the second oldest merchant and Charles Beloate is the oldest citizen.

W. A. Vandover who settled in the Richwoods district, as most of the older western district pioneers did, still lives in Corning. He has been in the neighborhood since 1883, when Corning was a settlement of about 600 persons.

One old timer remembered by many Corning people is Milt Jones who used to go about the country "fiddling" for dances. Corning had a dancing master almost as early as it had a church house.

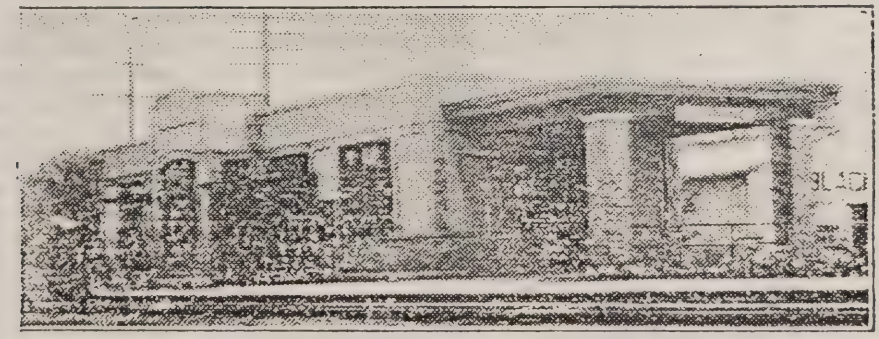
Up to about 1895, the town was a unit, with everyone busy about developing the town while the timber was being taken away and the rich farm lands cleared rapidly. But the big timber camps were breaking up and the drifting population leaving for other places when the Blacks came in. J. W. Black came to Arkansas in 1895, farmed for two years then moved to Corning and went into the lumber business. Today he is still in the lumber business.

G. B. Oliver is a prominent attorney today, and, prominent among the physicians, are Doctor Lattimer and Doctor Pfeiffer, the later developing a clinic now. Doctor Jernigan is a dentist practicing in Corning today.

Rev. Golden English Neely, who has been pastor of the First Baptist church since 1931, is a son of an early Baptist circuit rider, F. C. Neely. His father preached from St. Francis to Greenway and Rector in the early days, and back in the western district.

Down on Heel String, near Datto, lives a grand-daughter of one of the earliest settlers, if not the earliest one; Mrs. W. W. O'Kelly, daughter of J. Griffin.

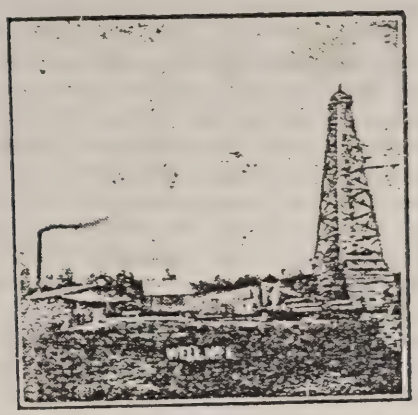
G. B. Oliver has a store, run by his son, Jim, and Jim Rhea is still in the hardware



Missouri Pacific Station, Corning.

business as he has been for the past 20 years or more. The newer business element is found in such firms as Shaver's Mercantile establishment, owned by John B. Shaver who came to Clay county in 1926. He combined 12 stores which he had been operating as a chain over northeast Arkansas, into this one establishment, and is now branching out into the whoelsale grocery business. Mr. Shaver says that he went through a bank failure in Missouri, one at Pocahontas, and one at Corning, but has never taken bankruptcy or closed his doors. He is symbolic of today's business man, compared with the former free credit, easy going merchant, who collected when he could, and paid his bills when he collected.

Among those who have added to Corning's history, Miss Molly Mabry's name should not be left out. She has taught school in much of the western district and was the wife of the Baptist circuit rider, Reverend Neely.



Oil Well Three Miles West of Corning.

Much of the drama that was enacted in Corning is included in the county history. With the building of the railroad, many people from Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, came and settled in Corning, bringing with them the more efficient and impersonal business methods of the north. The town has grown steadily and shows the results of these careful methods. It has had fewer business failures than any other town in the county. To the west of it is rich bottom land, devoted chiefly to cotton.

The only lakes in the county are scattered around Corning and furnish the best fishing and boating in the county.

Knobel

The earliest record of a settler in or near what was later to become Knobel is that of J. H. Allen who settled on a piece of land two miles west and began farming it in 1866.

Ten years later J. T. Gilchrist came with his father, Richard, to Knobel where they operated a sawmill and after his father died in 1888 he put in a general merchandise store. He worked for the Iron Mountain for five years previous, acting as agent at Knobel in 1879 and operating a saloon and billiard hall.

Before the Gilchrist store was put in, B. H. and Joe Sellmeyer had come into the timber lands as contractors and tie makers for the Knobel and Helena branch of the Iron Mountain Railway in partner with Crawford and Lintz. They stayed to build the first store building in 1881, the only one there for four years.

It was a box structure of one big room, stripped with rough boards and shingled with clap boards. Its unpainted exterior was plastered with huge chill tonic signs, which the Sellmeyer brothers sold in gross lots to those who lived in the swamps. There was no cleared ground where Knobel is now, and all around the Sellmeyer store, which stood near where the gin is, were big stumps where the timber had been cut back to make way for the building and for hitching places.

In the same year, 1881, Joseph Mellert came to Knobel and opened a hotel to accomodate the workers in the timber, and two years later Joseph Whitaker came to saw lumber for the Burlington, Iowa, company which was handling the most of the timber in that section, and stayed to purchase land and later sell part of it in town lots.

In 1884 the Iron Mountain railroad built a hotel, said to have cost $10,000, and under the management of Eli and Darius Loda, it became known over the country as the Knobel House at Knobel Station. Eli was a seventh son of a shipbuilder and had followed shipping all over the world before coming to Knobel where ship timbers were being cut out and shipped to foreign ports.

With W. P. McNally, a passenger conductor; and Harry Flanders of the transportation department, southern division. Iron

Mountain railroad; Eli Loda purchased 100 acres of land adjoining the station and railroad land. They surveyed it and laid it out in city lots in 1888.

Dr. Ed Silverberg was a pioneer physician at Knobel in 1885, but left there to be postmaster and doctor at Peach Orchard. He was one time postmaster at Knobel, as were both B. H. and Joe Sellmeyer.

In 1887 Marcellus Ketchum followed Mellert in the Hotel business, and today there stand the old Knobel House and another hotel, both neglected by the travelers who pass down the highway which makes the main street of the town.

The Keller and Tann Manufacturing company of St. Louis established a handle and spoke factory at Knobel in 1892, employing about 600 men and by 1900 the population had reached 900. S. W. Alexander had a sawmill, and the Sellmeyers had one. After 1910 the population dwindled with the timber work and today Knobel is a town of about 200 inhabitants, most of whom are relatively late comers and the town depends upon its rich agricultural land for its support.

There are five grocery stores, one drug store operated by Dr. Isaac H. Cunning who came in in 1903, two butcher shops, two shoe shops, two blacksmith shops, two sawmills, one cotton gin and two filling stations.

And a man must, as one merchant expressed it, "put up ten dollars security for each dollar he borrows" now where in 1900 all one had to do to obtain financial aid was to ask for it. Knobel, like all small towns, has been depleted by the highway cutting through it. But its citizens, like C. B. Cox who came to Knobel in an ox wagon over the pole road leading across Nigger Wool swamp in 1893, and Joe Sellmeyer and Joe Whitaker are still there, adapting themselves to an agricultural country where timber was once the chief product.

Peach Orchard

In 1892 when Mrs. Abe Brown (Miss Lane, then) came to Arkansas to teach school in a small community, a conductor named Hall came through the coach calling out "Peach Tree" and the train pulled to a halt.

One lone peach tree grew on a plot of ground now occupied by the cattle pens at Peach Orchard, and the great orchards from which the settlement had taken its name, were gone.

Peach Orchard is a little town of approximately 175 persons today; its history from 1891 down to today is clearly defined, but the most interesting history of the town which grew to larger dimensions than the town of today, and went back to the swamps before 1891 is barely discernible in the rotted stumps of peach orchards; old foundations for houses and abandoned wells. Hunters tramping through the woods stumble upon crumbled log houses and caved in wells now buried in the forests which come up to the edges of the town on two sides.

On the practically abandoned town site, a St. Louis man named Timmerman attempted to work out a strange combination of religion and commerce. He purchased vast acres of lands and established a Catholic community. He built a Catholic church and home for a priest and paid the priest for living in the community. Other people came in and purchased land from the big land owner, later to find that he did not have title to the land, and consequently their titles were no good and the land went back to swamp while the church and the priest's home were abandoned.

Today the Star Inn, a structure of 18 rooms of frame work with a big front

porch screened in, stands white in the sun. It is the Catholic church and the priest's house joined and made into a hotel; the only reminder that one time an attempt was made to establish a purely Catholic community in Clay county; and a warning to such as may see it, that commerce and religion do not make good bedfellows, not when religion is made the hand maid of business.

There were no roads in 1891,, only paths through the woods with blazes on the trees to guide the settlers from one house to another, and in the town, only eight or nine houses all told, with James Kelly operating the Timmerman General Merchandise, and Abe Brown's new general store. The stores were on the opposite side of the street, nearer the railroad, and a sawmill operated on a piece of land later purchased by Mr. John Allbright.

Mr. Allbright came into Peach Orchard in 1883 and worked on the railroad for 2 years. There was no physician nearer than Walnut Ridge. The country was alive with game, wild turkey, wolves, and many wild hogs. No settler thought of venturing from home without a gun because hogs were ferocious.

In 1891 E. Michael was running the saw at Uncle Johnny Smoker's mill on the place now occupied by Gurley's store. Before that time he had been one of the many to buy land from Timmerman and find that he had no title to his land and no means of getting his money back. He, with Mrs. Michael (now Mrs. John Allbright) and a small daughter were living about a mile from the settlement on a 40-acre tract of uncleared land. The only means of reaching town was to walk the old tram road, another relic of the earlier settlement, keeping carefully to the plank walk between the two two-by-four rails which had rotted away on either side.

One night Mr. Michael was ill and his wife went to town for the doctor. She locked her husband and small daughter into the house for safety, and taking up a bunch of split cypress, lighted one for a torch and set off. As she went on night animals drew near and within the radius of the burning torch she could see wolves circling slowly, afraid to come nearer because of the light. They followed her into the settlement, and when the doctor returned with her, they followed them both back to the house in the swamps. The doctor did not venture out into the night again but waited at the Michael home until daylight.

Such things were typical of the district at the time. When Michael found that the land he purchased from Timmerman was not Timmerman's to sell, he went to town and worked in the sawmill. A neighbor offered to swap him six town lots, fenced for his 40-acre tract of timber land. Michael asked for enough logs to make lumber to build a house on the lots, and the papers were drawn the next morning.

Within two days logs had been dragged in sawed into planks and the Michaels moved into a frame two story four-room house built by everyone in the community.

Other families came in and settled around the depot where Jesse Gaunt did double duty in selling tickets and handing out the mail and gradually the timber was cut back from the station walls. In 1892 the town doubled, twelve or fifteen German families came down from Illinois and built homes at Peach Orchard. For a time the German element dominated the town much as the Catholic had before it, but chills with malaria attacked the newcomers and within a year most of them had moved out leaving their houses deserted.

After that the growth of the town was gradual, one family and then another coming in and occupying houses already there. The first physician to come in was named Tabar, later a doctor Sankum came and now Dr. C. L. Shores and Dr. T. P. Harper serve the community in the many ways rural settlements use a physician.

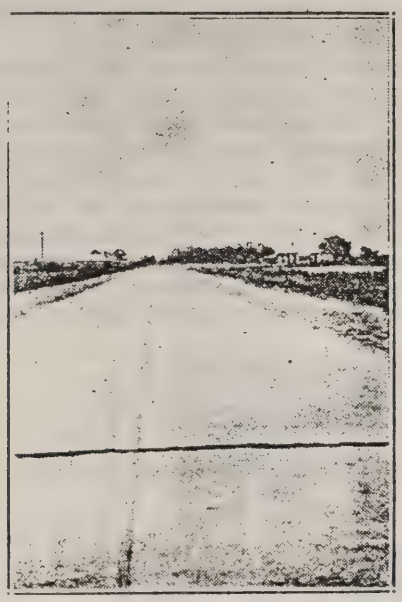
More peach orchards were put out and survived until 1907 when the San Jose scale destroyed them. But, like other Clay county towns, lumber was the main stay of the community for several years, its peak being reached about 1910, the busiest years being around 1900 when many stores came in and men to work in the woods. During this time the huge two-story hotel standing now just beyond the stock pens, was filled with workers and with big men interested in the lumber camps. It was built by Timmerman and deserted by him and his followers and stands today, a big white building with pale blue trim about its vacant square windows, a curiosity to the rare traveler who stops in the town.

Most of the lumber is gone now, and cotton fields flourish where the tall trees grew. Peach Orchard has two gins today, where it once had only sawmills. Sorghum grows rank in the Black River bottoms only one and a half miles from town across

country, but about three or four by road. But Cypress slough and the Little Gum are still impassable in the driest weather unless one walks the old tram road that was built before the war.

Today there are two churches in the town, the Methodist and the Baptist. Before there was a building of any kind to house the meetings, the Methodists had come to stay, holding meetings in the groves. In 1900 they built the first church house and began holding Sunday School which had started in 1893 at the church. And a Baptist minister, Reverend Robertson of Walnut Ridge, preached the first sermon.

There are now eight general stores, one drug store, three filling stations, and three cafes besides the gins, Star Inn and a red brick school building. The Brown Mercantile Store is still operating under the direction of Mrs. Abe Brown, and is the only one of the early businesses to survive Peach Orchard's many changes. Captain E. N. Goldman is the present postmaster and Pelham Austin is mayor.



Highway 67, Leading North from Corning.

In 1871 a swarm of squirrels hit eastern Clay County. They were so bad about old Scatterville that men were hired, their ammunition furnished, to kill them and protect crops from destruction.

Boydsville

In 1874 when the county seat was voted away from Corning for the first time, there was only the Old Bradshaw field at Boydsville's present site. Two miles south John McCoy had the Big Creek postoffice housed in his home and John Morrow, John Harris, Jack Townsley, Rice Harris, Tom Gifford, Jim Dobbins, the Boyds and the Gallums (?) and many others had farms in the surrounding hills.

Nothing was done about the first voting and in 1877 the question was brought up again. Again by election the county seat was taken from Corning and the Bradshaw field was selected as the place for beginning a new county seat. The politicing and wire pulling that made this change possible is lost to us now. But there was much excitement and the tensity of pending violence was in the air when the records were loaded into ox wagons at Corning to be hauled across the bottoms. The eloquence of Tom Holifield, old time lawyer, who sprang to a goodsbox and delivered a speech to the milling crowd, probably prevented an actual clash over the removal.

A temporary court house was built and the forming town was named Boydsville. The first term of court in the new seat was held in October 1877 with Judge T. M. Holifield presiding. Following the county seat, many families moved in. W. S .Blackshare, Jim Holifield and Jim Parrish opened the first stores. The Big Creek post office was moved to Boydsville, with Jake Dobkins as postmaster. Following him in this office were Clint Cargill, Giles Bowers and Major Grimsby.

Dr. Henry Simmons, father of the present Dr. Henry Simmons of Rector, had a store at Boydsville and was one of the first doctors. Doctors Merriweather, Smith, Cantrell, Winton and Wickham were some of the early ones.

Cal Carpenter hauled much of the timber that went to make the buildings and the frame court house that replaced the temporary one. Giles Bowers was the leading carpenter, an intelligent quickwitted man, active in politics as well as building.

John Harris, son of Rice Harris, was the mail carrier on the route from Dexter,

Mo. to Gainsville and was constable for 12 years.

Two lawyers remembered by people still living in Boydsville are Pat Crenshaw and Tom McGovern, the former was an eloquent forceful talker while the other was a silent reticent man. They were partners and McGovern was the office lawyer while Crenshaw presented their cases before juries.

County politics had not changed the nature of the Black River and Cache Bottoms and the county seat was as inaccessable as ever. The change but shifted the difficulty of crossing to people in the western district. Only a crooked blazed trail ran through the bottoms from Boydsville to Corning and all the sloughs and rivers were to be forded. In 1881 J. C. Hawthorne, state senator, was instrumental in getting the state legislature to form the county into two districts with a second county seat at Corning. So after that the county records were hauled back and forth through the bottoms to the different terms of court in Boydsville and Corning.

Many of Clay County's old families lived in these two county seat towns. The Royalls, Holifields and Spences lived in Boydsville.

A railroad had been built through the lowland of the western district in 1871 and 1882 the St. Louis and South Western put a line through the eastern district, skirting the eastern side of Crowley's Ridge, Boydsville was between the two. When the county was divided people began to talk for another change. Boydsville was not on the railroad and they wished for a site in the eastern district corresponding in central location to that of Corning in the west one.

So in 1891 the eastern seat was moved to Piggott, taking with it many families and businesses. This was a heavy drain on Boydsville. Passing through it today there is still left a sense of the more general and broad methods of another time. The houses and stores scattered about on the hills and nowhere is there a tendence toward concentration of buildings, that there is elsewhere at the present time. Enos Carpenter, son of Cal T. Carpenter, and C. L. Bearden have stores there. There is one garage and three blacksmith shops.

John Harris, John Morrow and Cal Carpenter, still active after more than 70 years, get as much pleasure out of life as they did in youth; and it is good to talk to such old timers, living as much in the present as the past, as they do.

Boydsville has much history and underneath the weathering there is still some of the elaborate wood work to be seen on the facades of the older houses.

There are many old stories of political campaigns and election nights, with their ringing speeches, excitement and fights. Unlike most Clay county towns, the timber business played little part in the economic history of Boydsville. Jim Milburn and a man named Johns had sawmills near the town. Thee Lowrance had a mill north of town.

The highway put through from Rector to Corning goes through Boydsville.

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W. S. Malone, father of Mrs. Lewis Spence, was shot in the mouth at a fight at Chalk Bluff. He lost two teeth but was never seriously ill from the wound.

Largest Hog in the World Raised by Luttrell Near Corning.

The first animal show to come to eastern Clay County, according to Billie Cochran, Rector, came to Scatterville in 1881. For weeks before its coming lurid colored bills were posted on the barn and about the country. Many promises of marriage date from this circus day. People were proud of this recognition of their progress, inferred by the circus' coming, and for years afterwards the posters were allowed to remain on the barns.

The first circuit rider in Clay County was the Reverend Fountain Brown, a Methodist. His first name is comment enough on his ability with words and exhortation.

Rector, Arkansas

ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT

Rector started back in the early forties with Oak Bluff and Scatterville as the nucleus for it. The McNeil's, Mobley's, Allens, Copelands, Kings, Yates, Dudleys, Grenades, Snowdens, Cochrans and Nortons came and settled around these two old towns.

In Oak Bluff Singleton Copeland had the first postoffice and also a small store. When he was drowned in 1855 Captain John Allen moved the post office to Scatterville.

Prior to the coming of the Iron Mountain railroad in the Western district, Scatterville was probably the largest settlement in the county. In 1882 the St. Louis and Southwestern railroad was constructed down the eastern edge of Crowley's Ridge as far as Paragould and the town's businesses began to move to the railroad. J. M. Copeland in 1881 built the first building, a box house on the edge of the right of way. This served as a dwelling house, store and a station. The first train to come into Rector was welcomed by a committee headed by Capt. John Allen. He organized a company of 21 guns to fire a salute on the train's arrival. Following this Samuel B. Vincent climbed on a flat car and delivered a stirring speech telling of past times and of past and anticipated progress. The address struck a responsive chord and there was resounding applause. The engineer gave a long blast on his whistle and of all the horses, mules, steer and oxen of the celebrators, only one yoke of oxen and a mustang pony were left hitched to the surrounding trees and brush—the others had bolted into the woods.

At first the town was not platted but late in '82 the Southwest Improvement company bought forty acres from Capt. John Allen and another forty from C. H. Wright. The town was laid out and divided into lots.

J. B. Boykin did the surveying and when asked why he made the streets so wide answered that a big town would grow there. Before the platting J. A. Harper built a home east of the tracks. After there were lots for sale H. B. and W. A. Cox built and operated the first general store. It stood on the present site of the Bank of Rector. Harber and Bearden were next with a store, followed by Jasper Payne.

J. H. Dudley, postmaster at Scatterville, moved the post office to Rector and housed it in the hotel he built. Ed King purchased the Copeland building and moved it to the northeast corner of Fifth and Main streets.

As each of these first buildings went up the trees had to be cut out where they were erected and woods filled in between them along the rutted streets. W. B. "Billie" Cochran moving to near Scatterville with his father in 1856, remembers the Rector site was solid timber, with only one small deserted clearing near it and that matted with dewberry vines.

In 1887 Rector was incorporated with J. A. Harper as the first mayor and Jasper Boyce as marshal. The town was named for H. M. Rector, a former governor of Arkansas.

The first school building also served as a church for all denominations. Jinkins and Mayfield were the first teachers. (Mrs. Jinkins is living now at Piggott) W. W. Spence a Presbyterian minister, father of the late W. E. Spence, preached the first sermon in this box house.

There is a question as to whether the Methodist Protestant with Wesley Cox as pastor or the Missionary Baptist with Will Bearden as pastor came first; but they both came after the town's incorporation; the Baptist erecting a building in 1888.

Following them was the Methodist Episcopal in 1893 with A. E. Holifield and the Presbyterians with W. W. Spence, pastor.

Rector had grown to about 350 population by this time. Adams and Outlaw had a drug store and Alfred West, an old timer, had a general store. He sold out to Oliver and Keaton and they in turn were bought out by G. H. Hardin and Company.

Some of the early lawyers were Reggie Beloate, now in Corning, the first city attorney after Rector's incorporation. J. A. Barlow is said to be the first lawyer that came to Rector. Dr. Thurston, Simmons and Earle were some of the first physicians to practice there.

George and Alec Wright had a sawmill north of town and cut much of the lumber that was used to construct the store build-

ings. Other lumber companies were Eli Meiser's mill the Leonard Stave Co., and Adams Brothers Stave Company.

Among the men who were active in Rector about this time were Captain John Allen, his brother, Ed N. Allen, county surveyor, the McNeils, both Jim and George, B. B. Holifield, then state representative, J. W. Dollison, the McReady's, Brakes, Taylors, Waddels, Sextons, Hills, Simmons, Copelands and Harpers.

Having many active men, strong political influence was centered around Rector. It was often said that Cull Mobley, Captain John Allen, Joe Watson, John Crews and Bill Waddel could elect any man to a county office. Mobley and Allen would give speeches, John Crews and Joe Watson would tell tales that rivalled the Paul Bunyan classics, and Bill Waddel would clown and perform "monkey shines." Loking over the list of county officials will show a heavy listing of Rector men since the county's inception and Jim and George McNeil, for a long time sheriff and deputy, made much county history included elsewhere, and made professional yeggery unprofitable and unhealthy.

After the rich Blue Cane township was taken in in 1895 through the help of B. B. Holifield, Ed Allen and Bill Lovejoy, the growth of Rector was accelerated. The passage from the predominence of timber to agriculture as the basic enterprise was made by Rector with as little slowing up in growth and as much economic grace as any town in the county. Even today the farm land arounr Rector is equalled nowhere unless it is near Datto along Black River.

The town south and across the track from where the first stores were located was called Greenville. After Rector was incorporated and whiskey was voted out by local option, the saloons moved across the tracks and eventually to across the county line. Blue Cane township had not been added to Clay County at that time and the Green County line was just in front of the present Cochran-Chevrolet Service Station. Across this line the saloons flourished and to Rector people it was known as Swampnoodle.

Like Greenway, Rector had its share of timber workers and their Saturday night celebrations were the same. They were divided into factions and their comings and goings from town were usually accompanied with the running of horses, shouting and shooting in the air. Many fights took place in and about these saloons and a chronicle of them sounds like stories of the frontier West.

Until 1891 the store buildings were all frame ones set down at random along the street, churned to a mire by ox wagons.

Capt. John Allen had the first brick building erected in Rector in 1891. It was constructed by Frank Trevathen, father of the present Joe Trevathen of Piggott. Mr. Trevathen prepared and burned the brick at Captain John's home and the building was on the present site of the First National Bank building. A brick walk fronted the building and people came as far as Pollard in ox wagons to see the two achievements in brick. A fire, destroying all the houses between the present Purcell's drug store and the railroad station, spurred the use of brick as many of the frame stores were replaced with brick ones.

When the county seat was to be changed from Boydsville in 1890-91, Rector was the logical place, geographically, to which it should be moved. Occupying about the same location in the southeast corner of the county as Corning occupies in the northwest. But the influence of Judge E. N. Royall, early political wizard and money lender, could not be offset and in the first voting Rector lost to both Piggott and Greenway. In the second voting between the two, Rector threw her votes to Piggott, wishing if they could not have it to get the county seat farther from Rector than Greenway is. Piggott won and those early political scientists have been vindicated for Rector was not drained of either civic leaders or business houses as were some of the towns nearer the county seat. Newton F. Jones was the first to run a newspaper in Rector but it was not possible to get the dates of his beginning.

J. W. Dollison had a print shop in Rector in 1887 and published the Clay County Advocate, a paper that had been published previously at Corning. In 1889 he moved this to Greenway and in 1894 F. M. Daulton came to Rector and published the old Pilgrim's Progress until 1899 when he moved his paper to Gainsville.

The older Daulton had started as a printer apprentice in Hannibal, Mo., and worked with Mark Twain on a paper owned by Oran Clemmens, Mark's brother in the forties. Daulton later, working on the Quincy, Ill. paper, reported the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

In 1905 he moved back from Gainsville

to Rector and started the Clay County Newsboy. After his death in 1912 the paper was run one year longer by his son, Ben. Returning in 1926, after an absence of thirteen years, Ben Daulton started the Clay County Independent. Closing his plant on Oct. 12, 1933, he moved a few days later to Walnut Ridge.

Unlike the history of either Corning or Piggott papers, the publishing of a Rector paper has not been continuous over many years, yet no county town is better able to support one.

In the town today George Harding, the Macons, Kings, Bucys, Cochrans, Elsasses, Crocketts, McNiels, Hamiltons, Purcells, Macks and Crews are all active and many of them are sons of old timers. Billie Cochran, Walter Macon, Pat Freeman, Judge B. B. Holifield, A. West and Jane Morris are all old timers and most of them have helped with memoirs of things past. Living out of town is Joe Copeland and Mrs. Puss Allen, widow of Captain John and sister of George and Jim McNeill.

Rector has been often called the civic center of Clay County because of the initiative and activity of its women. The school house is a fine brick and the churches in the town are strong and active ones.

The present mayor is Kelly L. Bradham and the chief of police is W. W. Harmon.

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Leonard

In Leonard, the first building, a log one, was built in 1883 by Canady. The only other building near there was a small log school house.

The first church was the Methodist. Before many of the stores came in the town was called Macedonia. Later it was changed to Leonard after Capt. J. W. Leonard.

In 1895 the boundary between Clay and Green counties was changed so that Clay included Blue Cane township in its limits. Representative Judge B. B. Holifield was instrumental in getting the change. Ed. N. Allen, surveyor, and Bill Lovejoy, both with influence in Little Rock also helped to bring it about.

R. E. Davis opened the first post office in Leonard in 1883. Timber cutting was the first industry and some of the finest timber in the county was taken from the bottoms. Blue Cane and Brushy ridge were the first places to be settled.

Jim Clayton and R. E. Davis opened the first store in 1902. In 1903 Dr. W. C .Boone came in and opened a store. Some of the doctors that have practiced in Leonard are J. P. Lunt, Phillip, Wayfield, Robinson, Hawkins, Sancomb, Eubanks and Case.

For a time Leonard boomed with the timber industry. Bill Lovejoy probably took out more timber than any other man. It was in this town that Lovejoy was killed by Mart Vowell after enmity had existed between the two men for some time.

Farming, now an important thing in Blue Cane township, was secondary until the best timber was cut out. Many business firms came and went in Leonard while the timber lasted.

At the present time there are two stores owned by German and French respectfully, a garage and blacksmith ship.

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Between 1885 and 1905 there was a boneless girl living at Knob. The only lime and calcium in her body were her teeth—they were sound and well developed. Her arms could be tied in knots. Laying her back downward over a board the back of her head and her heels would touch. Otherwise she was fully developed.

Hearing of her, Ringling Brothers sent a representative to investigate. They offered the girl's mother $3,000 a year and expenses to join the circus. Believing it was wrong, the woman refused.

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Josh Bare, Piggott pioneer and inveterate hunter, claimed to have eaten a bit of the flesh of every animal found in Clay County, including mink, snake, and water rat.

While waiting for help in carrying in a 400 bear he had killed, he shot a large buck. Many old timers remember Josh going through town, a pack of hounds trailing the wagon, on the way to his winter huntiung trip in the bottoms east of Piggott.

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Potter Forrest had an almond shaped stone (mad stone) taken from the head of a deer. He cured rabies with it. This stone would stick to the wound of a dog bite, if the dog had rabies, and draw out the poison. Regardless of the scientific explanation, this stone was used on people that had been bitten and they were cured while cattle bitten by the same dog, died of rabies.

Greenway, Arkansas

ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT

For a long time before the railroads' coming there were two houses on the first hills west of the present Greenway; a combination of frontier and southern architecture, they were large rambling houses sprawled on the hillsides so their owners, the Davis and Turner families, could look with a sort of patriarchial benevolence on the rich lowland to the east.

Elihu and William Davis came first in the years around 1836-38, and when the log cabin that was the nucleus of their home was erected, unbroken forest covered the lowland. The Haywoods, Hollises, Paynes, Watsons, Macks and Campbells came in the late thirties and early forties. Some of them settled south along the eastern edge of Crowley's Ridge. The Thompsons, Jewells, Waddels, Leighs, Wards and Turners came in and settled near the present Greenway.

Dr. W. V. Turner came in 1872. At that time the nearest post office was Scatterville. It had been moved from Oak Bluff by Capt. John Allen in 1855. Through Doctor Turner's influence a post office was obtained and located at his home on the edge of the hills. There was a store, too, and to the local people this postoffice was known as Hamburg and to the government it existed as Clayville. Robert Turner, Sr., has letters dated 1881 and addressed to him in Clayville. It was Doctor Turner who built the first box house and people came for miles about to see it.

When the railroad was put through in 1882-83 the postoffice was moved to the tracks. Elihu Davis owned the 40 acres that was taken over by the railroad improvement company to platt the town. At first only a faint trail led to the track and people would drift down to the track to see the train, lingering cautiously in the brush and woods edging the right of way, and ready for instant flight. At first, the tooting of the whistle or the letting off of steam was the signal for a concerted dive into the brush. Soon this fear passed and to those who rode the coaches following the mustang-like wood burner, not even respect was left.

M. G. Leigh, who had owned a small store on Quick's Creek prior to the coming of the railroad, moved to the tracks and became the town's first mayor. When a city ordinance was passed prohibiting the shooting of guns in the town's limits, Mr. Leigh resigned rather than fine his friends who were addicted to shooting birds in the grove late in the evenings.

Neither the name Clayville nor Hamburg was carried over when the town began to build. The Southwest Improvement company belonging to the railroad company, platted and laid out lots and the town was named Greenway for a company physician living at Hot Springs. Dick Caldwell, whose widow still lives in Greenway, surveyed the town.

An incident remembered by the old timers is how uncle Bill Waddle enlisted his neighbors and ran off the negro laborers employed by the railroad company. The year '81 was a hard, bad year for farming. It was the time of the worst drouth on record and the work offered by the railroads construction came at a fortunate time. Uncle Bill had been working as foreman over a gang of negroes while the road was being put down in Missouri. When the state line was crossed at St. Francis the contractors did not discharge the negroes and employ white help as was expected and

Uncle Bill walked off the job. Coming back to his home neighborhood he went around calling on his friends. Soon a band of armed men had gathered and they all went away toward St. Francis. After a brief parley the negroes went back across the state line and white workmen laid the steel and wood through Clay County.

Benson and Stokes opened and operated the first general merchandise store and Dr. A. S. Trammel owned the first drug store. Doctor Trammell also built the first home in Greenway. Leigh and Null opened the first hotel. Lute Fields was the first station agent and was followed by Bob Hancock, later active in politics in Clay County.

Other stores came in and Greenway's growth was quickened by the advent of the square timber industry. For a time Greenway was headquarters for the Canadian and English companies that came in to cut and hew into square ship timbers the huge white oak trees. The timber cutters, after six days of hard work in the sloughs and swamps, would come into town on Saturday to spend their money. Every Friday while they were there a box car of whiskey would be shoved on a siding by the local freight. So on Saturday there would be much conviviality among the timber jacks; and violence too—the violence and bloodshed that seem inalienable to the opening up of a new country.

Mrs. S. T. Wheeler, Piggott, remembers that when she came to Greenway in 1890 with her husband, a man had just been shot to death in the streets. As they went down the board walk from the station towards the hotel, the blood was trailed on the walk before them and on the hotel porch lay the man, dead in a pool of his own blood.

It was shortly after this that Bob Neesmith became marshal. A short, diminutive man, he had enough courage and tenacity for a dozen men and many of the old timers remember when the big bad gun-totin' stranger came to town looking for the marshal. Bob Neesmith wasn't hard to find and the big bad man sneered at Bob's lack of stature. At the stranger's insistence, Neesmith started in to take away the gun. The fight started in a saloon and ended near the railroad tracks almost fifty yards away. When it was over the stranger, badly mauled, was no longer belligerent and Neesmith had the gun, a small bulldog pistol.

Fewer confectionery bad men visited Greenway after that and, with the passing of the big white oak timber, the square timber men went away. With their going went the violence and drunkenness.

J. W. Dollison began publishing the Clay County Advocate in Greenway in 1887, moving it from Rector. While he was editing the paper he was elected to the state legislature on the Farm Wheel vote and the paper was taken over by Fred Brennecke in January 1889. The name was changed to the Clay County Courier and moved to Corning in 1890 where, two years later, it was bought by Ed Estes whose sons and grandsons still own and operate it.

J. P. Potter first came to Greenway in 1890 and bought John Hafford's Drug store. Two years later he moved the store to Piggott to be the county seat and became active in building and business in the town.

To give all of the businesses that have come and gone in Greenway would be long and tedious. The town has gone through the usual gyrations of the last few years changes. Today there is no other place in the county that has so kept the old landowning ideology of the south as has Greenway. Fortunately placed, so that a state highway only skirts it and it does not pass down its main street with the usual rattle of tin and flying gravel, the streets are quiet, tree walled and shaded, and serene—the passage of hurrying trucks and cars is only a distant droning.

Around the town the people have lived in the same houses and tilled the same land

for many years. West and south of town on the old hill road to Rector are six houses—all sitting on the first highland west of the swamps—that have been lived in for more than 58 years. The Jim Campbells, Mose Landrums, Jim Goldens, Hugh Mitchells, J. H. Macks, and Boss Stokes live in these houses and in front of them is the last tracery of the old Courier trail or post road, cut out before Arkansas became a state.

These families live in their own homes and till their acres—loving their homes and acres, too. And their choice of land to clear for farming was good for after years of cultivation their farms are still fertile and produce strong crops. Looking from the windows of their homes they can see over the growing crops and away toward the Mississippi.

Today Greenway has three stores, two cafes, and a barber shop and Highway 62 skirts its edge, three miles from Piggott and seven miles from Rector.

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St. Francis

St. Francis was formally begun in 1882-3 with the construction of the railroad, but, coming as the earlier citizens did from Chalk Bluff, the date of the settlement it grew from is much earlier. Dr. Timothy Dalton came to Chalk Bluff in the Forties and about that time the Lattas, Langleys, Magees, Holifields, and Liddells came there and it was these families that peopled St. Francis.

Uncle Dave Hodges, traveling for a long time with a Paragould Wholesale house, put up the first store in town, a railroad commissary.

Scott Liddell was the first postmaster and prior to becoming active in politics, his brother, Bob, helped him with his store business.

In 1883, W. S. Liddell and Hiram Calvin built store buildings and operated the first local mercantile businesses. There is a conflict as to which was the first, but one of the buildings still stands on St. Francis' main street and the other was destroyed by fire only a few years ago.

After the first few buildings were erected the growth of St. Francis was of almost boom like rapidity. Stores, restaurants, and hotels filled the main street from the bank building almost to the river. By 1900 there were more than a dozen mills and wood factories. At one time five two-story hotels operated at full capacity. The timber industry was the basis for such rapid growth. There were stave, spoke and hub, planing, slack barrel, heading, shingle and box factories with many saw mills and lumber companies.

Building went on so fast in the Ninties that there were never enough carpenters. Including mill workers the population reached 1,500.

Sam Ebberts, J. M. Myers, D. R. Stanley and N. A. Keller came after St. Francis had started its growth and were major contributors to its expansion. Mr. Keller bought the store of H. Calvin and had the distinction of being Clay County's only republican sheriff, defeating Jim Turner for that office.

Mr. Stanley, coming in 1890 from Kentucky, worked for Keller until the latter sold out to him in 1896. The store was housed in the brick building erected by Long and Wolf in 1893. Mr. Stanley remembers that there were only two buggies in St. Francis when he came in 1890, and ownership of them indicated great affluence. J. M. Myers came in 1885 from Illinois and was a member of the firm, Juvenall and Myers Stave Company. He was elected mayor of St. Francis and with Sam Ebbert and Calvin was instrumental in erecting the present Methodist church, with J. D. Rutledge as the first pastor. The Methodist church in St. Francis has been the starting place for many young preachers. Some of them that have come to be well known are, Robert E. Ellis, pastor of the South Methodist Church at Campbell, Mo., and Rev. C. M. Reeves, of Little Rock, brother of G. Will Reves. The present minister is E. J. Holifield, age 27, the nephew of Judge Holifield of Rector and the grandson of Tom Holifield, the old timer so active in making early Clay County history.

The Cumberland Presbyterian church, supported by the Liddells, was disorganized with the Presbyterian reorganization and is no longer active.

J. Campbell is pastor of the Baptist church.

St. Francis was incorporated in 1886.

With the mill and timber companies coming in from all over the United States, St. Francis for a time, was the most promising town in the county. Building and expansion were going on in it faster than in any other and the school built in 1892 was

at that time the best in the county. A hazel brush thicket was cleared to erect the school building and it is still being used. D. H. Patterson was the first principal and Miss Alma Stanley, daughter of D. L. Stanley, was the first primary teacher.

Some of the companies that came to St. Francis were: George Winterburn's sawmill, probably the first one; the Southwestern Lumber company, Sawmill and Planer, (S. R. Norton, manager); Gunter's Mill; Woodson Bros., Shingle Mill; B. D. Williams Stave Mill; Juvenall and Myers Stave Co.; Gill's Sawmill; Clint Cargill's Sawmill; O'Neil Stave Co.; Straingway and Phipps Lumber Co.; Joe Roberts Handle Co.; Sneided Slack Barrel Factory; Cruce and Self Shingle Mill; Bill Bentley's Heading Factory and the Bradford Hub and Spoke Company.

The last big factory to come was the St. Francis Box and Lumber Co., Mr. O. J. Gunning's handle factory came in after the best of the timber was gone.

Early, when there was much timber and the companies were coming in, money was plentiful and St. Francis streets were crowded with people on Saturdays. In the county there is a record of three official hangings but there is one unofficial hanging that is not on the county records and the violent tragedy that brought it about happened on Main Street of St. Francis. It has been a long time now, and the people's names are not important, but in the days when St. Francis flourished the Last Chance Saloon flourished too; just across the river in Missouri. After six days of working in the mills at the timber cutting and on the river, men were after freedom from the monotonous repitition of heavy hard work and the residue it leaves in one's thinking. Often they would find it at the Last Chance. One man, following this time old method, came home drunk from whiskey and illusions of personal power. He raged at his wife and made threats. When he left the house he carried a shotgun. His wife followed him onto the Main street, carrying their baby in her arms. Her husband warned her again not to follow him and when she came on, he raised the gun and fired. The charge of shot killed the baby and the woman was little hurt. The man was taken to Boydsville jail and the next morning he was found dead, from hanging, in his cell.

In 1890 Noah House started a newspaper, "The St. Francis Guardian." It was published until 1891 when House went to Piggott and became editor of the Piggott Banner. W. E. Spence began his first law practice in St. Francis. It was after he had already been active in county politics and F. M. Cruce gave Mr. Spence his first suit.

Of the early doctors, Dr. Hawkins, who moved from Chalk Bluff, and Dr. Powell, were probably first. St. Francis has had many doctors. There were Doctor's Tucker, Williams, Crawford, Hubbard, Seegraves, Putnam, Shields, Russell and later, Dr. J. E. McGuire who stayed for a time, then moving to Piggott.

When the timber began to get scarce, the mill companies began to leave and the peak of St. Francis growth had been passed by 1915. As with other towns the war did it no good and only delayed the stabalization that must follow when agriculture replaces other industries as the basic one.

Before so much land was cleared there was good hunting in the hills and bottoms, with every kind of game fish in the river. A group of St. Louis club men built a fine club house on the river north and west of St. Francis and some of their larger catches preserved by taxidermy, are still on the walls of the aging building. The going of the timber took away the game and now the club house and grove is used for picnicing. Today H. F. Rothrock is mayor. There are many old families in St. Francis, some of the older people that have seen many changes as history unfolds itself in Clay County are, Mrs. John Osborn, 85; Aunt Sarah Liddell, 83; and Mrs. Mahar, 89. Mr. Robert Wagster and F. M. Cruce, younger than the first three, have been in St. Francis since the railroad's store. Now there are one barber shop, three grocery stores, three filling stations, a grist mill, a garage and two cafes.

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A man named Winningham and William McNutt built the first Salem Church. They were Baptists and preached in the church afted it was built.

Piggott, Arkansas

ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT

Piggott, unlike St. Francis and Rector did not have a Chalk Bluff or Scatterville, already old, to people it after the St. Louis, Ark. & Texas R. R. came through and before that time only a few families lived there.

Mrs. Lucy Lowrance, with her home on the site of Ernest Marshall's present one, was in the eventual city limits; and the cemetery that bears her name was spreading on the hill before Piggott was thought of.

Josh Bare, Mose Bratcher, and D. D. Throgmorton lived in or near Piggott and owned land in its present limits. The Wades, Vancils, and Sarvers were living on the hills north and west of town. Then the present court square was a wooded grove and the sassafrass trees in the street between the homes of Ira Harlan and Mrs. Lura Brown were part of a fence row around Dan Throgmorton's corn field.

About the time of the railroad's coming, Dan Throgmorton laid off town lots in North Piggott and Mrs. Lucy Lowrance platted south Piggott. The first cluster of houses was called Huston after Dr. Sam Sam Huston.

Before the coming of the railroad a Dr. Piggott had used his influence to get a post-office at Dick Throgmorton's home, with Mr. Throgmorton as postmaster. With the opening of Brown's store, the post office was moved there and he became postmaster—at first pronounced Pic-gott—after the old doctor.

Franz Kopp moved from New Madrid, Mo., and erected a saw mill in 1882. There was fine timber in the bottoms east of Piggott and the coming of the railroad made it accessible to markets. Other timber industries followed Kopp's in rapid succession. Some of them were Hammond's Stave Company; Niebauer and Cox Lumber Co., and Wilson Bros. Stave Company with mills on the east side of the track.

When the construction of the railroad was going on, a contractor had worked local men near Greenway and then attempted to evade paying them. With this intention the time was not kept accurately. The men, armed with shotguns, demanded their pay and received it; and, as there was no record of the time they had worked, each was given what he demanded. The railroad officials did not hear the real facts in the case and for a long time held resentment towards Greenway and Piggott. Not until the heavy shipments of lumber, staves, etc. made a station necessary, did they put one at Piggott. Then it was in the north part and the store buildings were all south of Sugar Creek.

John Lentz and Uncle Doc Thomas were the first to erect a store in the new Piggott. Their building was near the present site of the Palace Hotel. Jack Brown and his brother, Jake, Piggott's first undertakers also moved their businesses up near the new station.

Some of the stores were, Brogden's Store; J. R. Scurlock & George Forrest Mercantile Co.; (they were also in the timber business) Throgmorton and Pollard; Bill Fridenberg's Barber shop which an old add in the Piggott Banner shows as "Tonsil Artist." Other stores began to come in during the following years and extend back from the railroad on the street south of the court square. In 1888 Robert Coleman built the first hotel. It still stands, the Palace Hotel annex.

By legislative act the division of Clay county has been made in 1881 and Corning was made the county seat of the western district and Boydsville the seat for the eastern district. Boydsville, not on the railroad, was hardly in the center of the eastern district and talk for a change was passed about. Rector, Piggott, and Greenway were prospects. In the first voting, Rector received least votes .Judge E. N. Royall's influence was given to Piggott and Greenway, an older town, lost by 31 votes in the second voting. In 1891 the county seat was declared by the court to be permanently at Piggott and W. E. Spence, then county clerk moved the records.

Securing the county seat quickened the development and increased the population of Piggott. The Biffels, Royalls, Spences, Potters, Blackshares, and Liddells, all active in the county's development, moved in.

The first temporary courthouse, a frame

building, served until destroyed by fire in 1893. With it were destroyed the county records. Another wood building was built and used until 1899 when the present brick one was erected.

J. P. Potter and Judge E. N. Royall, started the Clay County Bank in 1897, with Mr. Potter president and Lon Royall cashier. The first brick building in Piggott, according to old settlers, was erected to house this bank and Potter's Drug Store.

In 1905 the Bank of Piggott was organized with Judge E. N. Royall president and J. K. Browning, later state senator, as cashier. At Judge Royall's death in the same year, J. P. Potter became the bank's president.

J. M. Myers, former member of the firm Juvenall, Myers & Co., and ex-mayor of St. Francis came to Piggott, organizing the Myers Stave Company.

The doctors, always important part of a community and especially so in a young one, were Dr. Sam A. Huston, the first one to live in Piggott; Dr. Piggott for whom the town is named; Dr. Rouse with his medical springs; Dr. Simpson, Dr. Thornton, and Dr. E. J. Winton. Of these early ones, Dr. Thornton is still living. Dr. Simpson, the first dentist to come here found not enough dental irregularities to support a "tooth doctor" and changed over to medicine, continuing to pull teeth without charge for his medical patients. One of the older doctors that some who are still young remember, is a Dr. W. A. Simm; bearded and always with a curved walking stick that would dart out to catch some youngster about the neck or ankle. Associated with him as surely as the stick and beard, are the fine trotting horses he rode and drove.

In the south lawyers have always been active and prominent citizens and many of our towns and land marks are named for them. Among the early lawyers that are still remembered by later people are Harvey Moore, Judge L. Hunter, and Will E. Spence. Judge Hunter and Mr. Spence have gone away recently, leaving behind a long record of their activity.

Will Spence put up the first money to bring the first paper to Piggott in 1891. An old "George Washington" hand press was bought from Charley Stokes at Dexter, Mo. George Evans was editor and the paper was called the Clay County Argus. He sold out to Noah House and Lon Royall and House edited the Banner until about 1899. Then J. K. Browning bought it and W. G. Barker edited it. Browning sold out to G. E. Williams who published it until it was taken over by a stock company with Lewis Spence as editor.

Through all the changes the Banner has kept the name given it by House when he came down from St. Francis to edit it. Lewis Spence and Huce McNeil started as apprentices in the old Banner office and in 1896, when Noah House advertised for an apprentice, Charles L. Payne, present editor, answered and worked with the ommission of a few years, until he was elected county clerk in 1913.

After serving a term as sheriff, Payne was ask to take over the editorship of the Banner in 1928. It has since continued under his management.

The Bertig Company erected a store and cotton gin here in 1900.

One of the largest local mercantile companies was owned by T. J. Bruce, A. J. Brown and Otto Brown. The store did a thriving business until it was burned in 1912.

The Clay County Mill and Elevator Company was formed in 1892. At present it is the only roller mill between Jonesboro and Dexter.

In the years from 1895 until 1905 the first tentative steps toward real estate development were made. And from 1907 until the opening of the world war, the business section expanded; block after block of con-

crete and brick buildings were added.

One great impetus during the era of progress, was the building of the St. Louis, Kennett and South Eastern railroad from Kennett to Piggott in 1912. It opened up much of the timber and farm land in the St. Francis bottoms to clearing and cultivation. Then about two years later the Butler County railroad was constructed from Poplar Bluff, Mo., and connected with the Kennett road to Piggott. This was put through by the Piggott business men.

Skull Taken from Garden Spot; Indian Graveyard, Black River.

The following list of men have been active in Piggott since 1900, and much of its progress and development has been due to them: Judge L. Hunter, W. E. Spence, Ira C. Langley, T. L. Davis, J. M. Turner, Harvey Moore, B. B. Biffel, Bill Linke, C. M. Harris, H. C. Robbins, Alf Ballard, J. P. Potter, Buck Templeton, Arthur Sneed, P. M. Pfeiffer ,J. R. Scurlock, Lee Robertson, G. Will Reves, and Less Castleberry. Almost all of them listed, subscribed their money and energy to getting the railroads through here.

Probably Buck Templeton has erected more buildings in Piggott than any other man. Marion McNeill for a long time a building contractor, has been building structures in Piggott since sawed timber came into common use.

Arthur Sneed, Piggott attorney, remembers that in 1914 he could stand on his home porch and see 26 buildings under construction in east Piggott.

The growth in these years was steady and healthy, inducive to capital and outside people coming here.

P. M. Pfeiffer came in 1909, bought 13,000 acres of bottom land in the St. Francis valley, introduced diversified farming on a large scale, cleared land with his slashing method and then, in 1929, added 50,000 acres of Black River land to his holdings.

The first steam plant for Power and Light in Piggott was built by local capital in 1913. After three years it was sold to Missouri Arkansas Utilities company and C. M. (Matt) Harris, stayed on. The first Boy Scout troop west of the Mississippi was organized by C. M. Harris in Piggott in 1913.

The municipal water and sewer district was created in 1921. The lines were laid and the plant completed in 1923. The Power and light district was formed in 1923 and the plant completed in 1926. The first chairman of the commissioners was Arthur Sneed who has since occupied this position.

The war checked the steady growth and following the war was inflation of nearly all economic values. There was speculation in cotton and corn, with little building. There was speculation in land, too, feverish speculation; and land, having the characteristics it gives to those who live too close to it, is not a flexible or facile thing to speculate with. But all that is passed, again, and the land remains, impervious; and each year more is cleared and drained for farming. Even the tariff may pass after a time, leaving the land free for further development.

Inseparable from the history of a town is that of the churches. The first church in Piggott housed all denominations at worship. It was on the site of Will Gaskins home. The next was the Missionary Baptist church near the Butler county tracks, built in 1895. Now they have a fine church and it is hard to remember when they had any other.

The Methodists replaced their frame church, built in 1897, with the present brick one. The Presbyterian and Christian churches still maintain the two churches they

first built.

The General Baptist and the Church of God, each have buildings, built since 1900, in East Piggott.

Closely aligned and growing from the Chamber of Commerce, is the Piggott Cemetery Association, incorporated in 1920. The organization was begun by C. M. Harris, Ira Harlan, Charles Pollard, Mrs. H. G. Shannon and Mrs. G. W. Sietz. All Piggott has supported this organization wholeheartedly and today no new comer passes the cemetery without commenting on its beauty and the well cared for graves.

In getting this history I have found that the doings of women are little recorded; their parts are too quiet and unpretentious to hinge much of the drama of history upon. But their part has been big and I cannot finish off this brief history without mentioning at least three women. They are Miss Leah Williams, Mrs. Lura Brown, nad Miss Etta Sarver. To these women Piggott will be indebted for many years.

For a long time Miss Etta has taught Piggott's young in the grade schools and for a long time Miss Leah has been principal of Piggott's high school and has given the parting instructions to the graduates. No two people have done more towards moulding minds and giving ideals. Mrs. Lura Brown has been active in educational, social, civic and religious affairs in Piggott and has given unsparingly of her time. President of Piggott's first civic club, the listing of her activities is too long to include here. Much of the progress of the Piggott library is due to her.

And today, two state highways pass through Piggott and many county roads go out from it like wheel spokes. Where Jake Brown killed squirrels late in the evening after his days work, the court house now stands; and Myer's Stave Mill has replaced the thicket in which Josh Bear killed a bear with an axe to save his hunting dog from being shredded by its claws.

Pollard

The Holcombs, Forrests, Nettles, Lattas, Pollards, Settlemoirs, and Renfros, all coming up often in the county history, settled around in the hills near the present Pollard and many of their decendants are still there.

McElroy had a store north and east of Pollard before the Civil War. It was this man who gave the land to build the New Hope church (second in the county) upon. Bill Pollard, moving the post office, brought it to the present site of Pollard. The town first built on the hill just east and north of where the business section is now.

Jack Pollard and Tom Irwin had a general store. W. "Potter" Forrest had another one and Willis Pollard ran the first sawmill. Fred Holcomb, later a mayor of Piggott for many years, had an early store there, too.

Stores came and went so often in Pollard before 1900 that it is impossible to give their chronological order. All that is remembered is that some of them flourished and moved away or were discontinued in that general era, termed early.

O. C. Grider, Piggott, relating things told him by Henry Holcomb, said that in the early days the people around Pollard went to all the social events up and down "the ridge." Chalk Bluff was not far to go to a jumping match, a fist fight, or a marriage. Many marriages were made on the old Chalk Bluff Ferry. No marriage license was necessary in Missouri but one was necessary by law in Arkansas, at a cost of fifty cents. The couple would ride or drive to Chalk Bluff, accompanied by their friends. The crowd would get on the ferry and be carried to the Misosuri side of the river where the ceremony would be performed.

Many a pitched battle was held on the

Missouri side of the Bluft. Henry Holcomb dated a Missouri man by the name of Jackson to a "fist and skull" fight. The site picked was on the Missouri side between the ferry and the old Four Mile, an early Missouri town that is gone now. Jackson's brother was a substitute for him. After Uncle Henry and his friends had arrived, the formalities of stripping to the waist and shaving the heads of the contestants, were begun. (People have never ceased to like formalities, gestures, and much talk with their fighting.) While his head was still lathered for shaving, the fire of battle overcame Uncle Henry, and springing to his feet, he attacked the offending Jackson instead of the brother-substitute, and whipped him "from pillar to post."

E. G. Ward, Piggott, County Judge.

Before 1900, M. J. Tucker, father of Clyde Tucker, Piggott, started a large plantation in the edge of the bottoms just west of Pollard. He opened up a store and had the post office moved there from Pollard. The town was called Advance and was on the present Clarence Grider's farm. Nothing is left now to show that once a busy town grew up there. For a time Tucker did well but seems to have lost out because of people's jealousy. He owned the first dinner bell to be used in the county and was the first to bring in a two-wheel cart. The cart was stolen from him by envious people and was not returned until Tucker moved to Greenway. With his moving, the post office was returned to Pollard.

In 1901 F. H. Montgomery, merchant closed his store and prepared to move his stock to Qulin, Mo. O. C. Crider was a clerk in the store and ask Montgomery to sell the store's stock to him. Montgomery did and Grider stayed on, replacing Montgomery as Pollard post master. The only other store at that time was owned by R. B. Settlemoir.

Dr. J. P. Hiller came to Pollard in 1903 and later joined O. C. Grider in business. The firm became Hiller and Grider with Grider as active manager. Doctor Hiller continued the practice of medicine, while taking an active part in local affairs. He and Grider built a brick building now occupied by H. Kirk.

With the coming of the Butler County Railroad in 1914, Pollard was platted by Grider and Settlemoir. Grider was elected the first mayor and, in celebration, was ridden home in a wheelbarrow. Telling of the jubilation over the railroad's coming, he said that there was much shouting, throwing of hats into the air, and kissing of others men's wives.

Leah Williams, Piggott.

Men who had been active in Pollard since 1900, aside from those mentioned a-

bove are: William Housman, W. J. Johnson, G. B. Blakemore (who organized and was president of the Bank of Pollard) and A. F. Grider. These men all had land and money and the same optimism that characterized the county up to 1915. It was the time when men would say to each other "we must learn in advance when a railroad or highway is coming through and we will buy land and be rich. Great development is coming in this county."

Since the railroad, a highway has been put through Pollard. It is the one leading from Piggott to Corning.

The Pollard bank failed in 1931, but not following the precedent of other banks, it paid its depositors 100 per cent on the dollar.

W. G. Barren, head of the Butler County Railroad, promised O. C. Grider and Doctor Hiller some kind of station when the railroad went through. Coming into town after the line was finished, Barren called the two men to his private car. The argument began and lasted all night. Grider compared it to Jacob wrestling with the angel—Grider and Hiller being the angel. Finally towards daylight, they pulled Barren's thigh (or leg as the modern vernacular has it) and he promised the town a good station. He kept his promise and built the one Pollard has now.

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The late Senator T. L. Caraway was once a school teacher near St. Francis and later at Greenway. When he went to St. Francis to teach he had but one suit of clothes and Mrs. Webe Magee, with whom he "boarded" used to patch his trousers for him at night after he had gone to bed.

One Sunday morning Caraway went into Keller's store where D. R. Stanley was working (Stanley tells the story) and said he didn't have any money but he had to have a pair of "britches." Stanley let him have them "on a credit."

Another story told of Caraway is the prediction made by W. E. Spence, before whom he came up for an examination. After Caraway had left the office, Spence remarked to another man, "There's a man who'll be senator some day." He lived to see his prediction come true.

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After the war when the carpet-baggers came in, native citizens had to pay $10 to vote, if they were allowed to vote at all.

The Ku Klux Klan organized at Scatterville and successfully opposed this oppression. Governor Powell Clayton sent state militia in to disband the organization and Jack Pollard, Cull Mobley, William McNeil, Sam Brown and others were put in the jail at Boydsville as members.

All the guns and horses they could find were taken by the militia. Jim Parrish had a valuable mare taken from him. The arrested men were finally freed but the militia stayed several weeks.

Bill Waddle and Billie Biffle are said to have been leaders in this early organization.

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Jack Laffler, in making a survey for Paul M. Pfeiffer in 1932, found five of the witness trees used in a government survey in 1845. The survey was made in the bottoms just west of Crowley's Ridge. Of the five witness trees, two were standing and only the stumps of the other three were left.

Methodist Church, Piggott.

Building a Better Piggott

Success, Arkansas

ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT

Little Black River flows through the western district of Clay County and empties into Current River just above the county line. Steamboats used to come up these rivers to ship square timber made by Captain McCracken from a little place called Bridgeport, before the war. Harve Polk, father of the present W. D .Polk of Corning, lived there and Stephens and Carpenter operated a little store.

Back from the river Billie and Jack Thompson owned much land, and west of the point Robert A. Hawthorne had settled in 1876. His son, Robert A. had a home on the place.

When the town was laid off along the river's edge, A. A. Frazier built a box house, the first in the settlement where logs were plentiful but lumber scarce. Back a way from the river was the forest with a few families living, and a few Indian mounds, relics of the time when President Jackson sent the Indians out of Mississippi

The narrow gauge railroad was branched off at Moark and cut through the lands owned by the Thompsons above Cherokee Bay and the postoffice was moved nearer the tracks, away from old Bridgeport. In October 1888 it was moved again. This time it was put in the home of Robert A. Hawthorne, and the office called Don.

Jim Stevens had put in a store at the village which now spread between the river and the railroad, and he obtained the postoffice. U. S. Wells, another old timer, was living there at the time and, in 1898, was instrumental in having the postoffice name changed from Don back to Bridgeport.

In 1900 the town was well settled along the railroad and the name was changed to Success.

Today Success is a town of about 150 population. It is about four miles north of Datto and just off the concrete highway which cuts through the western distirict of the county. It is in the center of an agricultural district with much of the land still owned by descendants of old settlers.

Polks still live there, Mrs. Richard A. Hawthorne, Jr., who was Alice Polk, is there and McCrackens are left. The postmistress today is Mrs. Georgia Allen McCracken Thompson.

Steamboats no longer ply the rivers and lumber is nearly gone, but Success has a drug store in the old U. S. Wells building; several grocery stores, and a big General merchandise store run by Tezzie Smith Unlike most towns, Success has but one garage and repair shop; but the usual schools, churches and gins.

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Palatka

Years before there was a town in the western district of Clay county, settlers were coming into the tall woods by ox cart and wagon and clearing lands about ten miles northwest of what is now Corning. The settlement which grew with the coming of J. W. Brown in 1854, G. G. Green in 1858, and others was called Vidette.

In 1884 J. F. Mahan moved from the Richwoods district to Vidette and four years later, H. H. Williams came and, obtaining

the postoffice, had the name changed to Williams. In 1891 he laid out the town, but despite his efforts, his name was not to be perpetuated in the county's towns.

Dr. Henry C. Redwine, coming to Vidette, in 1880, to practice medicine, put in a stock of drugs and general merchandise in 1888 and obtained the postoffice, changing the name to Palatka for a town in Florida where the doctor had spent some time for his health.

Today Palatka is not reached by any highway, and is a small settlement of half a dozen houses, two general stores, barber shop and cafe and a repair shop.

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Crockett

Crockett is nine miles west of Piggott on the western side of Crowley's Ridge. There has been at least one store there since 1887, but long before that time families had moved in and settled in rich creek valleys among the hills and in the valley on the edge of Cache bottoms.

S. A. Holcomb and his son, Henry, settled near where Crockett is now in 1836. Later they moved to near Pollard, and the families that followed them were early ones too.

The Parrishes, Hardings, Cummings, Battles, Massengills, Renfros, Gordens, Bakers and Walls were some of the first.

Then after the war Ben Scarbrough came in 1869. Taylor Crockett, father of John L. Crockett of Rector, came in 1873. It was from this family that Crockett takes its name.

Uncle Thee Lawrence came in 1884 and settled south and west of Crockett within two miles of where he now lives. The Winns, Williams and Byrons came in the sixties, seventies and eighties. Some of the families have moved away to other parts of the county but the Hardings, Rogers, Scarbroughs, Blackshares, Parrishes, Lawrences, and Gordons still remain and have good farms.

Franz Williams was the first to open a store in 1887. He sold out to J. T. Scarbrough in 1890. Tom Winn opened another store about this time.

A. B. Embry, coming from Kentucky in 1900, bought the Scarbrough store in 1909 and is the present owner. Next door, in the same building, Mr. Scarbrough has a grist mill.

Until the recent year of weather variations the yield of the hill and valley farms has been consistently bounteous and land owners around Crockett have been well to do.

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Some of the names given the bends, sloughs and deep holes along Black River are quite graphic and named from some incident or man associated with them.

Some of them are almost a hundred years old. Along a section of Black River are Heel String (below Corning and near Murphy's Lake,) Lake Slough, Cut Off, Old River, Pete's Log Yard, Cal-ford, Alligator Hole, McClintick's Log Yard, Buffalo Hole, High Point, Wamack's Point, Turtle Hole, Sunk Boat, Gahart Landing, Little River, and Dead Man's Hole.

Showing that the old "fist and skull" fights are not really outmoded or replaced by cutthroat business methods as a means of retribution, Bob Ingram and Bob Easley, of near Pollard, retired across the Ark.—Mo. line, accompanied by many church members and deacons (presumably to see fair play) armed with shot guns, to fight out a difference between them. Both were strong men and fought furiously for more than half an hour. Neither gave up and neither won over the other so the fight stopped when they were exhausted. Both were laid up in bed for several weeks. This happened only a few years ago.

Datto

The name of the town Datto is to compromise between the postal authorities of the United States and a family in Clay County, the Days. I. H. Day owned the land upon which the town developed, and laid it out in town lots when the Frisco came through there in 1901. Day wanted the postoffice to be named Dayton but there were too many such offices so the government compromised and called the place Datto.

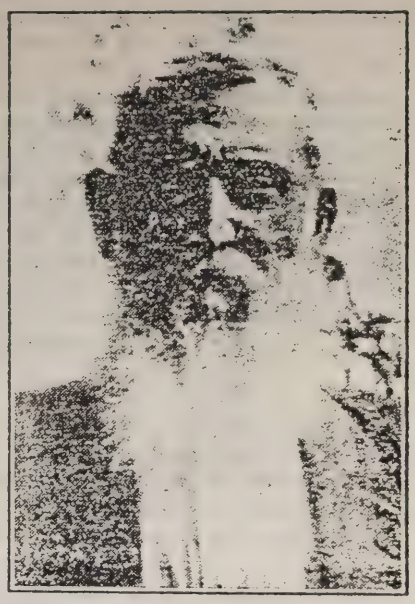
Datto is, Clay-countilly speaking, a young town. It supplanted Thurman, a much older place about three quarters of a mile southeast where W. T. Griffith had obtained a postoffice in 1888 after having worked in the H. H. Williams (see Palatka) Mills for about five years and logged for another six. He owned a sawmill at Thurman and was engaged in lumbering and in cotton ginning. But the railroad missed the settlement and Datto grew up around the sawmill of I. H. Day.

C. A. Day was the first postmaster at the new office and B. R. Hargraves followed Russell as station agent. Before that time, Wesley Schwinegruber and his brother came to the timber country in 1893 and settled on the land where the family now lives. A short distance away Will McCann and his family settled a year later and the men felled trees in a long line between the houses and all along the way to the school house and even in 1900 children walked to school along the logs because, even in dry weather, the level land was under water.

When the first school was opened E. C. Skagg was the teacher. He is now owner of a drug store in Datto, and the building is used as a Methodist church. The woods were not cut back far from the walls of the school house and A. E. McCann and A. H. Schwinegruber with the other "big boys" at school were permitted by "professor" Skaggs to cut the trees during recesses and, tieing long ropes onto them, the boys hauled them away to clear a play ground.

The founders of the town were Dr. D. P. Day, Mrs. Lola (Day) Fleanor and I. H. Day, who came from Indiana to run a steamboat on Current River. They had a stave and hardwood mill, and Captain Joe McCracken (see Success) was in the square timber business before the town was founded.

It was incorporated in 1902 and C. U. Day, father of Earl and son of I. H. was the first postmaster. Datto, like Success, is in the Cherokee Bay district on Buckeye ridge which runs between Current and Black Rivers from Moark to Vinegar Hill.



"Milt" Edwards, 93, One of Clay County's Oldest Citizens.

There are now three grocery stores and a Day owns one of them. Mr. Skagg's drug store, two barber shops and a gin, Earl Day is manager of the gin. Mr. Skaggs is also the postmaster and the marshal. J. W. England is mayor, following C. E. McCann who served in that office for three terms.

Datto is in Nelson township, nine miles from Corning and five miles from Success, and today highway 67, is a hardsurface skirting the town along the road where trees were felled as a path in 1900.

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Josh Bare, Piggott pioneer, is said to have kept his money tied up in rags and put in tin cans. The cans would be thrown carelessly about the house and yard. One man went to him to borrow money. He wanted $500 and Bare walked out into the yard and picked up a tin can. From it he took $600, gave $500 to the man, stuck the remaining $100 in his pocket and threw the can back into the yard.

Moark

Moark was chartered by the railroad to be laid out on the "first high ground across the Missouri line" but all of the land was under water and the Stoefle's Stave Mill was built in Missouri while the timber was cut from the swamps where Moark stands today. George B. Holford who still lives near Moark, came to the swamps in 1881, shortly after John Avary settled there in 1880.

There is a conflict as to just who owned the land upon which Moark was platted in 1909 by Judson Price; some say that Abe Spurlock owned all the land and kept the railroad from coming through for years because he demanded $1,000 an acre for right of way. Others say that the land had passed into the hands of Tony Berg.

But before Moark there was a settlement called Cane Hill. A violent settlement, a rendezvous for most of the outlaw gangs that tried to run the western district; and a place where highly educated men went brutal in a dramatic fashion. There were saloons, one run by G. W. Moss, as early as 1870, and the Hastings and Merideths were there in 1889 and later G. B. Oliver and S. A. Edrington whom the Moark people today speak of as the "big men."

John Avary has a general merchandise store at Moark today, and A. Snodgrass runs the only other store. Walks are built of plank about ten inches above the ground and most of the buildings show many signs of having been in use for a long time. But the first store building to be put up, was below the present town site and across the railroad tracks. It was a saloon and store combined, owned by Dr. J. W. Anderson who was supposed to be head of the Ku Klux Klan and went about very smartly dressed in a severe black and white. There are tales of this highly educated eccentric man which verge upon the unbelievable. Even today they give evidence of having been turned over too many times in the minds of folk who cherish strange traditions.

There is a story of his love for little children, and the story of his almost fiendish attempt to throw oil upon a young boy who reported him for offending his mother. And his death is as spectacular as was his life. In the end he was shot and killed by a hunter who ridiculed the sheriff's posse because they could not hit their mark; commanded to shoot, the huntsman did, the fleeing doctor dropped dead in his tracks, and the name of the marksman is forgotten.

The bloody corpse was shipped home to the doctor's widow, with stiff knees protruding from a dry goods box, so the story is told today; and the days of daring men to cross a mark, and shooting them if they took the dare, are over in Moark.

But the sentiment that fostered the gangs which infested the Cane Hill swamps will not die out before another generation has come. It will not bemoan the fact that "they didn't even give him any money" when a young boy secreted himself in a baggage car and tried to shoot a man down on a railroad platform. People had not learned to "let the law take its course" and the sentiment is not wholly in accord with the expression today.

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Arkansas is named the Bear state because of the many brown and black bears found here in early days. No history of a county in the state would be complete without at least one bear story or a story about the men who hunted them.

The Bradshaws, living between Boydsville and Knob were great bear hunters and another great bear hunter, A. J. Smith, married into the family. Large packs of bear dogs were kept by these men. They farmed little but had many hogs and cattle in the woods of Cache bottoms. In the old Northeast Arkansas history there is an account of Smith's visiting the home of Governor Drew.

Smith usually went barefooted, bareheaded, and armed with a huge hunting knife. His hair and beard were long and grew in profusion. After selling the governor a consignment of hogs and cattle, he called to colect. The governor's wife was frightened at his appearance but let him into the house.

The hunter folded back the rug and sprang over it to a chair near the fire place saying, "Lady, I don't want to dirty up your quilt."

Mrs. Drew was sure that he was a horse thief and had his horse locked up. Her fears were not allayed until her husband returned home and enthusiastically greeted the hunter.

Carryville, Arkansas

ITS PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT

Carryville is seven miles east and south of Piggott on the St. Louis, Kennett and Southeastern railroad. For a long time there were no roads leading into St. Francis bottoms, but mud boat roads and muddy trails for bringing out timber with oxen. Sloughs cut through the timber land and before the drainage ditches came they stood full of water all year.

With the clearing of the timber and the cutting of ditches farms began to take in more and more of the rich bottom. George Marshall and his two sons, Ernest and Waldon, were big land owners around where Carryville now is. D. E. Jewell, M. U. Sowell, and J. W. Malone also owned land there.

The Campbell and Malden Lumber companies, headed by W. D. Lasswell, owned small narrow gauge road that came to within half a mile of Carryville and turned back east again to cross the river into Missouri and go on to Campbell, Mo. In 1912 the St. Louis, Kennett and Southeastern railroad supplanted the small road and was extended through to Piggott.

This opened even more of the bottom land to clearing and subsequent farming. Then in January 1914 Ernest Marshall platted the town and called it Carryville for his wife.

M. L. Johnston, now living in Carryville, was the first man to buy a town lot. Pink Keller opened the first store and Joe Hargus was the first post master.

The present General Baptist church was built in 1915. Woods and Vowell started a saw mill there but it was moved away in 1918.

John Terry, living half a mile north of Carryville, is overseer for Mr. Marshall and Mrs. M. U. Sowell of Piggott, and also runs two farms of his own.

The Carryville store is owned by R. E. Walk, who is also manager of the Carryville Gin company owned by P. L. Oliver of Corning. Mrs. R. E. Walk is the postmistress.

An oil well was drilled south and east of Carryville in 1921. There were many favorable indications for gas but no well was brought in and now the deserted well flows a fine stream of artesian water.

The land around Carryville is for the most part a rich sandy loam and cotton is the chief crop. A county road leads from Carryville to Piggott; the sloughs, dry now, are bridged and each year more gravel surface is added to the highway.

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John Pollard brought the first threshing machine to near the present Pollard in 1870.

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The first drainage ever to be done through Clay County was done through mistake. In one particularly bad bit of bottom in the St. Francis valley the water and mud were too bad for hauling out the logs and a ditch was dug to float them to the river. After the ditch was dug the water flowed away, leaving the land dry, and the ditch was not needed.

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Up until 1900 in Clay County a man could take a coon dog and make a comfortable living even when there was a crop failure. It gave men a feeling of assurance to know that they had this work to fall back upon. Coon dogs were worth as much as $150 each.

Nimmons

Nimmons, formed in 1901, was named after Nimmons of the Malden lumber company. The same narrow gauge track that turned east before reaching Carryville went through Nimmons. It was owned by W. D. Lasswell of the Campbell and Malden Lumber company.

Looney and R. T. Noland had stores in Nimmons, with Looney coming first, in 1902.

For a time the town boomed with the influx of timber workers. The town is near the St. Francis river and the timber supply along the river was so large that it was not exhausted until the twenties.

Jerry Holcomb, an old timer and the son of Henry Holcomb, moved to Nimmons in 1904. W. D. Lasswell platted the town and Jerry Holcomb was the first marshal. Mr. Holcomb has been Justice of the Peace for thirty-seven years in Payne township. He was first appointed in 1896 by Governor J. R. Clark. Since that time the office has become elective and Mr. Holcomb has held it continually with but a few years omission.

Since the best timber is gone, Nimmons is dependent upon farming.

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In the nineties Sam Brown, Bob Colemon, Robert T. Webb and Josh Bare would have daily rifle practice on the streets of Piggott. In looking about for a means to stop this recreation of the patriarchial old timers without offending them, city officials pretended to arrest them. A mock trial was gone through, the old gentlemen were seriously admonished by the mayor and the rifle practice on Piggott's streets was discontinued.

McDougal

After the Butler County railroad was put through from Poplar Bluff, Mo., to Piggott, a branch road was laid west from the main line. Branching off at Piggott junction, four miles west of Pollard, the road cut through Cache and Black River bottoms and opened that country to the shipping of logs and lumber.

Three towns sprang up in rapid succession along it. It was in 1914 that the road was formed and the same year McDougal, Hickoria and Tipperary began. With the passage of timber the towns have lost population.

In their best days McDougal and Tipperary reached a population of 300; at the present McDougal is the largest with about 23 families.

Mr. J. A. Morrow said that the first two settlers around McDougal were his grandfather, Bill Down, and Bob Burton. John McCollum was the first to settle in McDougal. He moved there in June 1914, the year the town was formed, and M. V. Morrow was the second settler in the town. He was the father of J. A. Morrow, the owner of Morrow's store, the only one in McDougal.

All three towns were laid out by and named by the railroad. There are two stores at Tipperary. The Frisco took over the line in 1927 and the steel is being taken up between Tipperary and McDougal.

W. G. Rayburn from Missouri was the first settler in Hickoria.

Tom Russell owns and operates a mill at McDougal.

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Irene Cox, Piggott, was the first Clay County woman to be elected to public office.

Clay County Geography

Clay County is located in the northeastern corner of Arkansas. It is bounded on the north by Ripley and Butler counties in Missouri; east by Dunklin county, Missouri; south by Green county, Arkansas, and west by Randolph county, Arkansas. It is separated from Dunklin county by the St. Francis River.

Its latitude is about the same as that of Nashville, Tenn., and Fayetteville, Ark. Its longitude about the same as St. Louis, Mo., and Memphis, Tenn.

The present boundary lines are as follows: commencing where the line between the states of Arkansas and Missouri intersect the St. Francis River; thence down the river following its meanders to the line between sections 10 and 15, Twp. 18, North, range 8 east; thence west on the section line to the range line to Black River; thence with the meanders of that river to the line between sections 15 and 16, Twp. 19 North, range 3 east; thence north on the subdivisional lines to the line between townships 20 and 21 north; thence west to the range line between ranges 2 and 3 east; thence north to the state line between Arkansas and Missouri; thence east on the state line to the place of beginning.

The greatest length of the county is from east to west, measuring 31 or 32 miles, and its width from north to south is 18 miles. The land surface is equal to 654 square miles, or 418,560 acres, of which more than 60 per cent are under cultivation.

The above area includes the strip which was obtained from Greene county in 1895, through the efforts of Judge B. B. Holifield and E. M. Allen. Greene county had more area than was alloted by the constitution, and Clay county had less than the required amount. A petition was made for a narrow strip off Greene county, resulting in Clay county obtaining the following strip of territiory: two row of sections in twp. 19, range 7, two rows of sections in twp. 19 range 8, fractional part of two rows of sections in twp. 19, range 9, all on south side of township 19; also two rows of sections on north of twp. 19, ranges 7 and 8 containing in all about 30 sections.

About one third of the area of Clay County is upland, which varies in topography from hilly to rolling. The remaining two-thirds is level bottom lands, bounded on the east by the St. Francis River and west by Black River with historic Crowley's Ridge, from 8 to 12 mi. in width, extending through the county in a southwesterly direction from its northeast corner. The summit of the hills in this tract reaches an altitude of from 100 to 200 feet above the surrounding country. There are also four or five sections of hilly lands in the northwest portion of the county, west of Current River. The remainder of the county varies only a few feet from a level surface. The town of Knobel, on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern R. R. is 181 feet above sea level, this being the average elevation of all except the hilly portions. The highest point in the county may reach an elevation of 400 feet above sea level.

Four rivers flow through the county. All that portion lying east of the broken or hilly tract above described is drained by the St. Francis River and its tributaries, and that division west is drained by the Cache, Black and Current Rivers and their branches.

Cache River enters the county from the north, near the middle of Range 7, east, and flows on through the county in a southeasterly direction to Cache Lake, on the southern boundary line, in the eastern half of Range 5, thus dividing the area of the county into nearly equal portions. It drains the western slope or Crowley's Rigde and central portion of the territory.

Black River enters from the north about two miles east of the range line, between ranges 5 and 6, and flows on a very tortuous route toward the southwest, leaving the county at a point about 2 miles north of its southwest corner.

Current River enters the county from the west, a short distance south of the northwest corner, and flows easterly to the second tier of sections; thence in a southerly and finally into a southwesterly direction, passing out at the western boundary of sec. 30, Township 20 north, Range 3, east.

The soil of the entire county is rich and fertile. Through the eastern part the rich St. Francis Valley stretches from Crowley's Ridge to the river, a distance of 6 to 10 miles. This vast area is practically

level and consists of a black sandy loam land with some clay. Little more than a third of the bottom land is under cultivation, but the acreage has increased rapidly since the coming of the drainage ditches.

Petrified Tree Mounted in Court Yard, Piggott.

To protect the St. Francis River Basin from overflow, the St. Francis Levee Board was organized, which constructed a levee from near the town of St. Francis to the Greene County line. Since that time a gigantic dredging system has been employed, by which this vast area of valuable land has been reclaimed. The drainage ditches also carry off the rainfall from the slopes of the ridge. And now this bottom formerly furrowed with sloughs and cypress brakes, is fast being converted into farm lands.

The hilly or rolling lands consist of a dark mulatto soil, on yellow clay foundation, with an occasional outcropping of small stones, or gravel, but rarely in quantities to interfere with its use for agricultural purposes, and with proper culture and fair seasons produces abundant crops.

While the bottom lands are an ideal corn and meadow country, they are also adapted to the growth of cotton, wheat, rye, peas, oats, clover and barley and all kinds of garden vegetables, including both Irish and sweet potatoes and watermelons. In Clay county, cotton is still the source of greatest income. The yield is from 500 to 2400 pounds of seed cotton to the acre.

Corn grows well on the bottom soils, the average for the county being about 28 bushels an acre. Hay and pasture grasses yield as much as three tons of timothy and clover to the acre with the average being 1.6 tons. Clay county has more clover meadows than any other county in the state.

The principal crops of the uplands are corn, wheat, oats, rye, clover and timothy with fruits and vegetables of all kinds.

The entire county was originally covered with a dense forest, consisting of four varieties of white oak, several of black and red oak, three of the gum, hickory, walnut, cypress, ash, maple, honey locust, poplar, beech, elm, and sassafrass, with an undergrowth of dogwood, paw-paw ,red bud, spice wood, hazel, privet, huckleberry and blackberry. Some trees of the larger kinds measured from four to ten feet across the stump. The best of the timber has been cut.

The industries of Clay County include farming with its branches, stock raising and dairying, cotton gins, roller mills, and the manufacture of ice, handles, stave barrel heads, buttons, etc. There are few large plantations. The average size of farms is 143 acres. Practically all of these farms are operated by their owners. Clay county stands at the head of the list as an agricultural section in northeast Arkansas.

John L. Crockett was one of the first to introduce draft horses. Poland China hogs were first brought in by W. O. Irby of Piggott. Oliver of Corning and Elsass of Rector have dairies with pure bred Holsteins and Jerseys. P. M. Pfeiffer has done much to encourage diversified farming in the county.

Fruit growing as an industry is yet in its infancy, but from the earliest settlements the finest fruits and berries have been grown, showing the adaptability of the soil to this industry. Some steps have been taken along this line, and it is predicted that in the near future this will be one of the most profitable industries. Dr. Rouse, an early settler in Clay County who had traveled through Europe, Asia, South America and other foreign lands, years ago proved the adaptability of Clay County's soil to fruit growing on his farm near Piggott. He raised the choicest fruits and stored away in

his cellars $1000 worth of wine, each season, some of which was made from fruits whose original plants were brought from Riga, Russia.

Dr. Rouse said, "there was no country capable of producing a greater variety of highly flavored and useful fruits than Clay County and the roses here are more fragrant than those of Persia."

The climate, like that of all northeast Arkansas, is humid. Winters are short and mild and the summers long and hot. The temperature ranges from a few degrees below zero in the coldest weather to 99 to 100 degrees in the hottest summer months.

Autumn is characterized by a long period of mild and pleasant weather of six to twelve weeks duration. Occasionally snow falls, but it never remains long. Rain is fairly uniform, the period of the heaviest rainfall being from January to June, with an average each year of about 52 inches. The average date of the last killing frost is April 20; the average for the first killing frost is October 20, giving an average growing season of more than six months. Drouths of three to six weeks sometimes occur, but the soil holds moisture well.

Many farmers and stock raisers have been attracted to the county by the transportation facilities. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad runs in a southwesterly direction across the western half of the county. The Helena branch extends in a southeasterly direction from Knobel and has a length of about four miles in the county. The main line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern was completed through the county in the seventies; the Helena branch, and the St. Louis, Texas and Southwestern (Cotton Belt) were completed in 1882. The Butler County Railroad extending from Poplar Bluff, Mo., to Piggott was completed in 1914. The St. Louis, Kennett and Southeastern extends from Piggott to Kennett, Mo. These last two mentioned roads have, in the last few years, been taken over by the Frisco lines.

Today highways go north and south in each of the two districts. A trip from Piggott to Corning which formerly took two days, is made now in an hour. Years ago a wagon load of furniture, or supplies, had to be of exceptional value to be worth hauling from Piggott to Corning. Now instead of a narrow twisting corduroy road, pitted with bog holes and roofed over with tree limbs, there is a wide graveled highway. The mudholes are gone, the trees are back from the road, and farms are eating into the woods on either side.

Uncle Joe Latta, who died October 26, 1933, after almost 85 years of living, saw the trails formed and saw them replaced by highways.

Living for many years in the same place on a high point of Crowley's ridge, he saw the modes of travel change along with the highway, each ushering in the other. First were the ox wagons, travelling slowly and passing not more than once a week. When one came by the Lattas or others living along the trail, came out of the house to shout greetings to the travellers. News was exchanged and often they stayed over night and there would be talk until late. In the morning the travellers were wished well on their journey.

Talking to Uncle Joe a few weeks before he died, we were sitting on his porch. In front and below his house ran the highway and along it, cars were coming and going and Uncle Joe did not raise his eyes or notice them.

There has been great mechanical progress since the forming of this country but in the immediacy of the present favorable points are often forgotten and only the unpleasant ones are remembered. And in recalling the past only the high points, going steadily forward in uninterrupted and intelligible sequence, are remembered. Forgotten is the monotonous repetition that was a characteristic of life then, as now; forgotten the pain and the sickness to be borne without assurance of aid when doctors were scarce. Nor are the sicknesses and death from bad health conditions, exposure, and the hard toil over many years, clearly remembered. So some sadly shake their heads and regret the perfection in life that is so irretrievably lost to us.

The early physicians, while not necessarily being part of the physical description, were, in their day, institutions within themselves. Riding a horse through the woods and later, driving buggies over rutted trails, they were family friends, advisors, ministers and counselors as well as doctors Many towns, hills, creeks and valleys bear their names. Practicing generally, they attended all the ills of their patients, physical and imaginary.

The rivers are typical swamp ones. Narrow and pitted with deep holes, they twist and turn through the swampland. With the tree limbs closing in above them and the black gumbo banks on either side there is

something faintly sinister and furtive about their flowing.

The St. Francis, dividing Missouri and Arkansas along much of its course, is often muddy and sluggish, but it clears in dry weather and has harbored many game fish. Fishing, until recent years, has been good and sportsmen have built club houses and shacks along its banks. There are small and large mouth bass, crappie, drum and perch, trim and jack salmon aside from the more portly and less spectacular (when hooked) catfish, buffalo, red and black horse, carp, spoonbill and grinnel.

Much of the early timber was floated out "by river" and the St. Francis has seen the coming and going of the timber men with their hard work, shouts and curses, and the rafting of logs. In the river bed and in the many drifts there are still huge logs, lost floating them out of the woods. Only recently one man salvaged eight large walnut logs that had been lost years before. The river water had sealed over the outer surface and a few inches beneath it, the wood was still well preserved.

Black River, the more tortuous of the two, winds through much of the north and western part of the county and goes on finally to empty into White River. Drainage of the bottoms has not sapped it of its fish and its banks are still in heavy forest. Its fish are the same as those of the St. Francis, with more spoonbill cat, and alligator gar. To see these large gars float up slowly to the surface near where one is swimming is no pleasant sensation. Round like a cigar, and with long teeth-studded jaws, some of them reach three or four hundred pounds in weight. Few of them are captured; they have a scaled hide, tough and thick as armor plate, so they stay on to feed on the other fish. There is no record of a man's being pulled down by one, but many good hunting dogs have been lost swimming in the river.

Along with the fishing and hunting is another pursuit followed by those along Black River. It is shell and pearl raking. One of the only two pearls bearing (in any abundance) rivers in the United States, many valuable pearls have been taken from it. The shells are taken by hogging (wading and diving after them,) by rakes and by tongs. Shells fall into a dozen grades running from case knives, blufers, three ridges and pimple-backs to muckets, bank climbers and sand shells. From five to one hundred dollars is paid for a ton of these shells and many of them are made into buttons at Corning. The shells are steamed over a fire to kill the muscle and open them and if a pearl is found it is near the hinge upon which the shell opens and shuts. Pearls run from small slugs to 40 and 50 grains, in pink, black or white.

Mrs. Sally Taylor, Corning, told of her father, J. R. Boulton, finding a 42 grain ball pearl while fishing in Black River. This pearl sold first for $2,000 and later was sold in New York for $5,000. It was so unclouded and perfect in shape that it was later included in the necklace of Queen Victoria.

Old time shell rakers remember that the highest price a pearl ever sold for on the Black River was $6,000. A river tramp whose name was forgotten, found it accidently while opening shells for trot-line bait.

This shell raking furnishes profit and recreation for those who are still woodsmen and prospectors, beneath the veneer the present has made. Every summer, late, after the crops are laid by and the river is clear and low, these men move onto the river with their scanty camping equipment and stay until fall, when the crops are to be gathered. The shell and pearl buyers make the camps, usually once each week, in motor boats, and buy the shells and barter for the slugs and pearls, if any have been found.

There is a standing joke about Black River's many twists and turns. A riverman, getting up early one morning, decided to take a weeks trip down the river. He put a little food in his dugout and started. Hitting a snag below the water's surface, the delicately balanced dugout tipped over and the food was lost. After the boat was righted the man continued down the river. Just before dark he put in and tied up for the night. Leaving the boat he went off through the woods and, after about 20 minutes brisk walking, arrived at camp in time for supper. He had travelled almost 15 miles by water that day.

Current River is a mountain stream, though it travels for a few miles through the bottom lands. Its banks are sandy and its water clear. Cutting through a little of the western district, it joins Black River and is lost.

The best of the game is gone from the bottoms but there are still squirrels, coon, opossum, fox, timber wolves, and a few turkey and now and then a deer. Fox hunting is one of the favorite sports along Crowley's Ridge and there are many of good

fox hounds.

As to the geological formation of the land beneath the county a layman's version must of necessity be general and brief. It is generally thought by geologists that the nature of the formation of Crowley's Ridge is structural. The county rests upon the Mississippi embayment of silt over an eroded paleozoic hard rock floor that extends from Cairo, Illinois south into the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River flows through the center of this valley that the ocean once covered. The river's silt deposit of clay, sand and gravel has slowly filled it in.

The paleozoic layer, of unknown thickness, underlays the whole valley and is like a half of a cow's horn sliced lengthwise. At the tip, near Cairo, the rock comes near the surface and becomes correspondingly deeper, going south, until, near New Orleans, it is more than 3,000 feet down. In the center of the valley, near the river, it is deeper and grows shallower, going east or west to the first mountain range. Around Corning this sheet of rock is struck around 1,200 feet.

Townships and Towns of Clay County.

Carpenter	Success
Nelson	Datto
Clark	Peach Orchard
Brown	Palatka
Kilgore	Corning
Cache	Knobel
Cleveland	Moark
Gleghorn	None
Bennett	None
Bradshaw	Crockett
Johnson	Boydsville
Knob	"Old Knob"
Pollard	Pollard
Haywood	Greenway
Oak Bluff	Rector
Chalk Bluff	"Old Chalk Bluff"
St. Francis	Piggott
Swain	Carryville
Payne	Nimmons
Blue Cane	Leonard
Liddell	St. Francis

In the early days in Clay County, coffee was bought green at the trading posts and browned in an oven at home.

W. H. Knight, Piggott, the "Marrying Justice."

The title is misleading. Mr. Knight married only one woman and still has her, but the things matrimonial that he has done for other people mount to an unrivalled record.

He has married 2,400 couples or 4,800 people since he was elected Justice of the Peace in 1923.

Born in Illinois in 1865, the son of Aaron and Susan (Wills) Knight, he came to Clay County in 1912 and began farming. Marrying Noah (Wheat) Williams in 1913, he entered into the firm of Nye and Wright, real estate.

Elected Justice of the Peace in St. Francis township in 1923, Mr. Knight has held that office since and has done as much as any other man in the United States to populate this country. His matrimonial parlor has almost become an institution.

In addition to these activities he has tried 2,300 law suits. Seventy-seven of these cases were appealed to a higher court and of them, 75 of his decisions were sustained. Of 236 persons called and handed over to the grand jury, 231 were indicted. The press bureaus of the United States have carried stories of Knight's activities all over the reading world.

Present day victims of the fashion for facile divorces will be glad to know that in the fifties, sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties, divorces were just as common as now although they took a diferent form.

Couples did not divorce each other but continued to live in the same house without speaking to each other or carrying out the orthodox marriage responsibilities.

Old timers tell of Uncle Billie Johnson and his wife, of near Boydsville, living together for 30 years without speaking. When Mrs. Johnson was away from her husband she referred to him is "Old Bill Johnson." Uncle Billie never spoke of his wife at all.

He bought his coffin in 1871 and each Sunday morning would dress in his Sunday best, get into the coffin and have his children file past, each commenting on his attractiveness in feigned death as his turn came to look. Many years later when the old gentleman died he was buried in a supposedly hermetically sealed casket on the top of the ground instead of in the grave site picked for him. When the odor became bad, a grave was hastily dug on the chosen site and he was buried.

It was known that he had saved a large amount of money. When it was not found some one thought of the grave. The country had been previously pitted by people hunting for money. Removing the casket and digging deeper, the imprint of an iron pot was found but the pot was gone.

Uncle Billie had evidently intended that the money be found when his grave was dug, but the delay in burying him, and the subsequent haste after he had begun to decay, caused the diggers to fail to dig deep enough. Local people believe that searchers who came to Boydsville from Missouri found the money.

In early day politics was a real and immediate thing at elections, the voters lined up on opposite sides for their respective candidates. Tension was high and a word might start them fighting. The fight usually ended when one side ran the other off or when all joined together for one candidate. Enmities from these election fights were usually forgotten the next day.

Giles Bowers, active in Boydsville in its day, sang for a phonograph recording machine. After the record was played to him he disputed that the voice coming from the machine was his own, and never came to believe that it was.

An unnamed state of about a quarter of a mile area was created due to an error of either a Missouri or an Arkansas surveyor in an early survey through Clay County in Arkansas, and Dunklin County in Missouri. The surveyors ran their lines together at such an angle that a "V" shaped triangle was formed on the line between the two states. It was faced by the river on the north, the Missouri surveyor's line on the west and the Arkansas surveyor's line on the east. Either could have obtained it for his state by admitting that his survey was wrong. But neither would do this, so the "V" shaped bit of land was left; possessed by no state.

A shrewd old squatter moved on it and erected a saloon and "openhouse" tavern. Taken up first by Missouri for not paying revenue and license fees for whiskey selling and tavern operation, he proved by the accredited survey that he was not in Missouri. Arkansas officials, notified by Missouri officers, arrested the man on the same chages. He proved that he was not in Arkansas.

He continued running the saloon and tavern, in a state of his own, until this survey was corrected by a later one. The dates and names were not obtainable, but the "V" shaped piece of land was on the St. Francis River above the Nation Bend country.

A favorite remark of Uncle Webe Magee in referring to early conditions in the county was that it was "so muddy a buzzard would mire down in its own shadow."

B. B. Biffle, a short diminutive man, was riding over the country on horseback electioneering while a candidate for sheriff. The country was very tough at this time. Coming up on a man working in a field. Biffle tied his horse and went over to get a vote.

When the man straightened up he was a giant in stature, making Biffle feel very small. Introducing himself, he explained that he was a candidate for sheriff. The big man's mouth popped open in sincere amazement.

"Sheriff," he said "you want to be sheriff?"

Then turning he said "he wants to be sheriff—well I'll be damned, I'll just be be dod-damned," and went away down the corn row shaking his head, leaving Biffle standing deflated.

Some Clay County People

ARNOLD, J. F.—Corning—born 1874, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Arnold, Clay County from Illinois, 1861. Sawmill, wholesale and retail grocery ten years. Now Corning Bank and Trust Company. Married Fannie, daughter of Shelby and Rictory (Brown) Phipps and grandaughter of Rev. William Phipps, founder of Corning Methodist church. Methodist. Children: Vana, Fred, June.

BAILEY MRS. R. E.—Knobel—daughter of R. F. (d. 1932) and Adele (Whitaker) Gilchrist. Clay County from Illinois, 1876. Normal teacher, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Morried R. E. Bailey, Senatobia, Miss. 1924. Methodist. Eastern Star.

BAKER, IVA OWENS—Corning—born Moorehouse, Mo. daughter of Jess and Lulu (Brown) Owens. Corning 1907. Abstractor, notary public, Rep. Standard Bldg. Loan Co. Married Perry D. son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Baker; nephew of Larry Boshears.

BALLARD A. H.—Piggott—born Tennessee 1867, son of George and Mary (Williams) Ballard. Married Tennie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Watson. Nursery. Misionary Baptist; 32nd. degree Mason.

BALLARD, ELMER HUBERT—Piggott—born Tenn. 1892. Clay county 1886 with father, A. H. Ballard. Chamber of Commerce; school board since 1926; light commissioner; three times city council; chief fire dept; dir. Piggott Nursery; two terms state plant board; twice president state nursery association. Mason. Married Josephine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Pollard. Children: Willard H., Joe Ann, Jackie Neal.

BARNETT, MRS. J. M.—Corning—born Randolph county, daughter of Green and Jane (Lewis) Johnston. Married Frank Cochran (d. 1919) son of Will and Mary (Spence) Cochran. Beauty Shop, Successs 1923; Corning 1929. Married J. M. Barnett 1931. Methodist. Elizabeth's Beauty Shoppe. Children: Lola, Eulis, Pearl, Lowell, Roy.

BENSON, MRS. THOMAS W.—Kennett, Mo.—born 1909, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lewis, Piggott. Married T. W. Benson, mgr. Shell Svc. Station, Kennett. Missionary Baptist. Son, Ted W.

BLACKBURN, MRS. INA TAYLOR—Rector—daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel A. Taylor. Florida schools; Wheatley Hall, Evansville, Ind.; business college, Springfield, Mo. Stenographer for O. T. Ward. Married Frank Layer, 1921. Son, Joel A. Married Neal Blackburn, 1928.

BLAKEMORE, JAMES BUCHANAN—Piggott—born Tennessee 1858. Greenfield Academy. Taught two years; clerked five years. Married Belle Valentine, (d.) McKenzie, Tenn., 1883; son, James W., Atlanta, Ga. Moved Dunklin county, Mo. Mayor Kennett one term. Organized and was cashier Cotton Exchange Bank 1900-09; real estate business with W. D. Lasswell. Piggott 1911. Organized Bank of Pollard 1919. Married Mrs. Mary Vail, Atlanta, Ga. 1926. Mayor of Piggott since 1931. Missionary Baptist.

BOYD, DAN—Piggott—born near St. Francis 1894. Married Myrtle Fry 1917. Landowner; Boyd's Mercantile Co. Children Wilford, George, Lawanda, D. W., Jr.

BRADHAM, KELLY L.—Rector—born Illinois 1890. Clay county 1907. Farmer; contractor; justice of the peace four years; alderman two years; elected mayor of Rector 1932. Mason. Methodist. Married Flora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Burton, Rector 1912. Son, Joseph B.

BROWN, MRS. ABE—Peach Orchard—born Missouri, daugther of Judge and Mrs. S. F. Lane. Clay county 1892. Married Abe Brown (d.) 1893. Methodist; Eastern Star. Brown's Mercantile Co. Children Abby, Amos L.

BROWN, ARTHUR L.—Corning—born Michigan 1868, son of Dr. G. W. and Mary (Burham) Brown. Clay county 1881. Married Minnie E., daughter of Claybourne and Susan (McCrory) Webb, Neelyville, Mo. 1889. Taught school; lawyer since 1897; dep. Prosecuting atty. 20 years; local bondsman 15 years; atty. Frisco and Iron Mtn. Ry. three years; Union Central Life Insurance Co., 25 years. Equalization board. Methodist, Mrs. Brown, U. D. C. Children, Anna Lois, Ruth Ione.

BROWN, BRUCE JACKSON—Piggott—born Piggott 1903, son of Andrew Jackson and Nancy Ellen (Bruce) Brown. William and Mary College; University of Virginia; Georgetown University. Investment securities, St. Louis; Chicago; New Orleans; New York. Author. Published in

Pagany, Nativity, Story Magazine of Europe, Contempo, Winsdor Quarterly.

BROWN, J. J.—Piggott—born 1860, son of Samuel and Anna (Dillow) Brown. Clay county 1862. Married Susan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Stevens (killed in battle of Helena.) Charter member Arkansas Funeral Directors' Association; deacon and charter member Missionary Baptist church. Licensed embalmer. I. O. O. F. Daughter, Nettie Jane.

BROWN, MRS. LURA—Piggott—daughter Mr. and Mrs. L. Hubbard, Maddox Seminary. Married H. O. (d.) 1910, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Brown. Missionary Baptist. First president Piggott Civic Club; chairman Women's division Liberty Loan drive; secy. Red Cross during World War; treas. Red Cross during drouth relief; has been member P. T. A. and cemetery board. Now treasurer Red Cross and librarian Piggott Public Library.

BROWN, SAMUEL JACKSON—Pollard—born 1881, son of Munroe and Anar (Pollard) Brown. Married Mary Ellen (Hammock) Nettles, Franklin County, Mo. Farmer. Missionary Baptist.

BRUCE, TELLIE JACKSON—Piggott—born near Piggott 1873, son of Benjamin and Neeta (Pollard) Bruce. Mercantile business; went into business for himself when 16 at Pollard; connected with H. O. and A. J. Brown; Bruce-Brown Mercantile Company. Postmaster ten years at Piggott; stock dealer; real estate; salesman and collector Singer Sewing Machine Co. Missionary Baptist. Mason. Eastern Star. Married Kate (Harlan) widow of W. W. Mason, Kankakee, Ill. Women's Benefit Assn. Children, Robert, Howard, Otto, Marjorie, Bernard.

BUCY, J. GUY—Rector—born Rector 1899. Married Myrtle Smith 1916. Stock dealer. Children Everett, Byron.

BUCY, J. LOYD—Rector—Married Bessie Harper, 1924. Stock dealer.

CALDWELL, EDWARD FRANKLIN—Greenway—born Haywood township 1894, son of Richard S. and Jennie (Gills) Caldwell. Public works near Truman three years; overseas four months during World War. Farmer. Married Della, daughter of John and Maggie (Smith) Mitchem, Greenway 118. Children: Claudine V., Glennie G., Frances L., Mary Lee.

CHILES, JOE—Greenway—born Tennessee 188. Partner in The Farmer's Store.

COCHRAN, J. T.—Rector—born Greenway 1896. Methodist; Mason; Chevrolet dealer and filling station. Married Ruby Holifield. Children: Juanita, Jimmie.

CONE, DR. GEORGE—Piggott—born 1877 in Glogau, Germany. U. S. 1901. Clay county 1913. Berlin University as chemist and pharmacist. National Medical U. at Chicago 1905. M. D. degree 1909. College of Medicine and Surgery, Chicago, M. D. 1910. Married Emma Fritz, Chicago, 1903. Children: George, Jr., Isabel, Adolph. Landowner in St. Francis bottoms. City and county health officer. Member American Medical Assn., State and Southern Medical Assns. Mason.

COX, IRENE—Piggott—daughter of Daniel Redmond and Bertie (Bruce) Cox. Clay County 1911. Has been asst. cashier Clay County Bank 1923-28, asst. cashier Bank of Piggott 1928-30. City treasurer 1929-33. Royal Neighbors (Sec.-treas.) Methodist

CROCKETT, JOHN L.—Rector—1877 Clay county 1874. Married Ella Mebane. Children: Eva, Floyd, Robert, Ina. Rector 1922. Ford dealer. Introduced pedigreed stock in Clay County; owner stock barn in conjunction with automobile business. Mason, Odd Fellow.

CRUCE, CHARLES LEMUEL—St. Francis—born 1875, son of Franklin and Elizabeth (Noles) Cruce who settled near St. Francis 1865. Married Fanny Feulah, daughter of J. J. and Josephine (Bradshaw) Liddell. Methodist. Roya lNeighbors. Daughter, Opal.

CUSTER, RAY—Piggott—born Virginia 1902. Piggott 1924. Married Mae M. Davis of Vinita, Okla. Rey's Garage.

DAVIS, PEARL WALKER—Greenway—born Dexter, Mo., daughter of J. C. and Mary Ann (Owen) Walker. Married S. A. Davis who came to Greenway 1889. Church of Christ. Children; Zilpah, Don Carlos, Randall, Inez, Helen, Winifred.

EMBRY, A. B.—Crockett—born Butler county Kentucky 1871. Clay county 1900. Bought store Crockett 1909. Married 1891. Chuch of Christ. I. O. O. F. Embry's Store. Children: Otilla, Gertrude, Bradley, Pearl, Ethel, Bruce, Morris.

ELSASS, ALFRED E.—Rector—born Ohio 1892. Married Grace Duke 1916. Serving third term as alderman. Started Elsass Creamery with brothers, Lawrence and Eugene. Children; Aline, Mary Jo.

ELSASS, EUGENE—Rector—born Ohio 1895. Married Nell Ball. Rector. Children; Demitra, Billie.

FERGUSON, GERALD—Success—son

of Carol W. and Agnes (Sandusky) Ferguson. Clay county 1895. Married Arlma, daughter of W. and Alice Sorrels. Shell Svc. Station.

FORREST, LONIE—Piggott—born 1890 Piggott, son of George and Nora (Crews) Forrest, grandson of "Potter" and Jane Forrest who came to Clay county in 1831. Married Mary Jane, daughter of Jasper N. and Lula (Toombs) Holifield. Enlisted U. S. Navy St. Louis; sent to Great Lakes Training Station; served on U. S. S. Missouri; U. S. S. Petrol; U. S. S. Idaho until 1923. To Pacific Coast Torpedo Station; Key Port, Washington, 1924-26; receiving ship for Shanghai, China 1927; U. S. S. Blackhawk; U. S. S. California. Served in Navy 17 years, left in 1931.

FOWLER, W. M.—Corning—born Supply, 1886. Corning 1903. Opened restaurant 1908; grocery business 1911. Fowler's Grocery Store. Baptist. Mason. Married Jessie Carter, Corning 1907. Children; Lucian, Naomi, Mildred.

FRENCH—T. A.—Piggott—born Kentucky 1890. Taught school. Studied law. Elected circuit clerk 1925-28. Judge 1929-30. Practiced law. dep. pros. atty. under Denver Dudley 1933. Married Edith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Gordon. Mason. Children; Gorden, Merrell, Dorothy Jean, Thomas A., Jr.

FRETS, W. C.—Rector—born Indiana 1883. Rector 1898. Married Vinnie Sumersett, Rector, 1901. Prop. Rector Filling Station. Has ten children all living in Clay county.

GOLDEN, VERNIE R.—Greenway—born west of Greenway 1902, son of J. F. Golden, an old timer. Married Marguerite Chiles 1929. Mgr. Farmers' Store. Son Joel R.

GRIDER, OSCAR C.—Piggott—born Clay county 1879, son of Gilbert and Caroline (Ezzel) Grider. Clay county Tennessee. Merchant; succeeded S. H. Montgomery as postmaster at Pollard; first mayor of Pollard; director Bank of Pollard; member firm Hiller and Grider. Helped lay out Pollard on own land when railroad came through in 1914. Piggott 1928. Circuit court clerk 1929; pres. Piggott Chamber of Commerce. Farm near Piggott. Missionary Baptist. I. O. O. F. Mason. Married Simmie, daughter of W. M. and Martha (Southern) Farris, White county, Tennessee. Children; Louis B., Almarita, Norma.

GUM, MRS. WAYNE—Kennett, Mo.—daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lewis, Piggott. Valedictorian P. H. S. 1924. Chillicothe Business College; taught. Married Wayne Gum, Clarkton, Mo. Now lives at Kennett, Mo., secy. State Life Insurance Co. Methodist. Y. W. B. C.

HARDIN, JAMES CLAYTON—Rector—born 1897, son of George and Ella (McPherson) Hardin. Roslyn Military Academy, N. M. Mercantile business. Married Nell, daughter of Rev. W. T. and Nola (Matthews) Thurman, Prescott.

HARMON, STRATTON—Piggott—1900 son of Jerome and Mary (Raibly) Harmon. Married Edna Mae, daughter of J. P. and Sally Schlaegel, Frankfort, Kans. Methodist. President of Gardena Valley Milling Co., Gardena, California. Chairman Farmers and Merchants Bank, special deputy sheriff Los Angeles County, Calif. Odd Fellows, 32nd. Mason, Shriner, Rainbow Club, Lion's Club. Lives at 620 W. 182nd. St. Gardena, California. Children; Elroy J., Dixie May, Robert, Mary Lee.

HARMON, W. W.—Rector—born 1871, son of Henry H. and Sally (Hudson) Harmon, Hickman County, Ky. Clay county 1920. Chief of Police, Sikeston, Mo. Farmer. Married Etta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tobe Morrow. Elected chief of police, Rector 1932. Methodist.

HARRIS, ALBERT N.—Greenway—born Greenway 1889, son of W. E. and Ada (Brandon) Harris. Gem City Business College,, Quincy, Ill. K. C. School of Accounting, Law and Finance. Stocks and grains, Chicago and Kansas City. Farms at Greenway. Married Minnie Overton, daughter of J. H. and Mary Overton, 1923. Children; Mary, Louise.

HARRIS, C. MATTHEW—Piggott—born Illinois 1877. Clay county 1913. Married Dora B. Sumners, Ill., 1898. Mason. U. O. F., K. P. Gulf Service Station. Children; Ralph, Cecil.

HARRIS, JOHN WILLIAM—Piggott—born Greenway 1895, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Harris who came to Clay county in 1880. Arkansas Agricultural School. Taught school ten years. Postal Employee. Married Emma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Potter. Baptist. Grand Master Masonic Lodge. Veteran World War. Children; Robert, Martha.

HENRY, W. W.—Rector—born Greensburg, Penn., 1886, son of W. and Mary Henry. Clay County 1903. State Teachers' College, California, Penn. A. B. degree. Greensburg Seminary, Peabody College, University of Ark. Cashier Bank of Corn-

ty supt. 2½ years. Mason. Methodist. Married Cecil, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Ray. Member of State Education Assn. Supt's. Divison, National Education Assn. Children; Kathryn.

HILL, D. A.—Piggott—born 1874, son of E. F. and Nannie (Lowry) Hill, Melbourne. Clay county 1915. Married Maxie Price Pounders. Farmer. Merchant. Christian. D. A. Hill's Store. Children; Mildred, Junior.

HILLER, DR. JOHN P.—Pollard—born Williamson County, Ill., 1876, son of Isaiah and Mary (Brandon) Hiller. Pollard 1903. Carbondale State Normal; St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons; University of Tenn. Methodist. Married Anne (d.), daughter of J. L. and Annie Blackskhare. Children; Francis, Alma, Fred. Married Love, daughter of Frank Benson, Boydsville. One son, Everette W.

HOLIFIELD, REV. E. J.—St. Francis—born near Boydsville 1906. State Teachers' College. Licensed minister 1932. Methodist pastor at St. Francis. Married Irene French, Pollard, 1931.

HUGHES, MRS. ARCH MADISON—Piggott—daughter of John Childs Brandon, farmer, who came to Clay county in the 40's and settled near Greenway. Married A. M. Hughes (1877 in Tenn. d. Piggott 1930.) A. M. Hughes entered nursery business in Piggott 1906. Clerked in old Famous Store and others. Business with R. A. Lack. Owned A. M. Hughes, General Mdse. until 1930. Children; Mabel, sec-treas. Piggott Nursery; Lavina, Doyne, Norman. Missionary Baptist.

HUSTON, SAMUEL WARREN—Piggott—born, Piggott 1884, son of Dr. S. W. and Susan Jane (Lowrance) Huston. Married Enid, daughter of J. H. and Narcissus J. (Wiley) Parrish. Lumber business. City Council. A. O. U. W. Presbyterian church. Children; Samuel Warren, Jr., (Balistics Bureau of Police Dept., N. Y. C.) Jean.

HUSTON, MRS. SUSAN J.—Piggott—as Susan Jane Lowrance came to Clay county from Tenn 1859. Presbyterian .Married Dr. Samuel W. Huston (d. 1905.) Children; Edna, Samuel W., Orin, Phea.

HUTCHINS, GORDEN LEE—Corning—1933. Opened State Theatre. Two years with Fox and Missouri Theatres, St. Louis. Baptist.

IRBY, W. H.—Rector—born Kansas 1888. Rector 1905 from Ill. Taught school at White Walnut, Palestine, Lonoke, Vew-Funeral Directors 1916. Married Amy Terry, Rector, 1912.

JANES, THOMAS ANDREW—Rector—born Ravenden Springs 1865, son of James and Martha (Bowen) Janes. Grandson of John Janes, first settler in west end of Randolph County. Clay county 1885. Worked for A. L. Blackshare. Put in T. A. Janes & Co. Rector 1900; with U. S. Holifield five years; Joseph Wolff Company. Married Linnie, daughter of C. L. and Eliza J. (Martin) Sides. County Treasurer 1890-91; mayor; recorder; alderman. Methodist, Mason. Children; Thomas A., Ruth E. Morgan B.

JERNIGAN, DR. E. D.—Corning—born 1889 Tenn., son of Rev. F. P. and Ella T. Jernigan. Clay county 1899. Married Imogene, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. G. R. Whitaker. Southern Dental College, Atlanta. Corning 1924. Methodist. Psi Omega Dental Fraternity; American Dental Assn.; Ark. State Dental Assn.; N. E. Ark. Dental Assn. Son, E. D., Jr.

JEWELL, V. E.—Piggott—born 1867, son of John M. and Hannah (Harmon) Jewell. Clay county 1881, settled at Old Hamburg. Store clerk, timber. Married Sarah, daughter of W. N. and Ann (Davis) Hitt who settled on Old Middle Slough in 1867. Farmer; Missionary Baptist. Children; Grady, now in U. of A.

JOHNSON, WILLIAM J.—Pollard—born near Boydsville 1867, son of Thomas and Sarah C. (Pollard) Johnson. Married Mary Ann (d.) daughter of Watson and Jane Forrest. Children; Lura May, Mary E., Lula Belle ,Charles F., Joseph R., William E., James O., Thomas F., Edna, Myrtle, Mary. Married Tishie Ann Mallard. Children; Willim F., James C. Missionary Baptist.

JOHNSON, WYATT—Corning—born Illinois 1893. Clay county 1912. Married Ethel, daughter of W. B. and Judith (Gossett) Snodgrass. Employed at Oliver's Store. Serving third term mayor, Corning. Children; Wyatt, Jr., Anna R., Betty J., Methodist. I. O. O. F., Rebeccas.

JONES, DR. F. H.—Piggott—born 1890, son of John Paul and Katherine (Seab) Jones of Franklin Co., Miss. Mississippi College, graduate of U. of Tenn., M. D. degree. Interneship City Hospital, Memphis. Tulane University. Piggott 1913. Married Carolyn, daughter of W. L. and India A. (Compton) Allen of Natchez, Miss. Missionary Baptist. Mason. Commercial

Club. Son, John Homer.

KEGLEY, THOMAS JEFFERSON—Crockett—born Bradshaw township 1887, son of Sam and Etta (Duncan) Kegley. Clay county 1870. Farmed at Crockett since 1920. Overseas nine months during World War, Army of Occupation at Coblenz, Germany. Married Delia Bradbury, daughter of Jim and Celia (Stewart) Bradbury 1919. One son.

LATHAM, GUY—Corning—born Tennessee 1884. Corning 1895. Owner Guy's Lunch Room. Methodist. K. P.

LANGLEY, IRA C.—Piggott—born 1872. Graduate law, U. of Ark.; U. of Tenn. Dixon Normal School. Dep. circuit clerk 1900. State Land Office 1914. Asst. Sec. of Ark. Senate. Food administrator during World War. Mason, Shriner. Married Lillian L. Oxley, 1894. Daughter, Edith.

LATTA, JESSE C.—Pollard—born 1878, son of Thomas F. and Xantippe (Glass) Latta. Native of Clay County. Reared on farm and served as road commissioner part of the time until 1913. Postmaster Piggott 1915-19. Now postmaster of Pollard. Served under Democrats and Republicans. Married Zora, daughter of Andrew and Fanny (Malone) Langley. Missionary Baptist. I. O. O. F. Mason, Eastern Star. Children; Thelma V., Miriam, Frances M.

LETBETTER, W. M.—Corning—born 1877. Gainsville. Knobel 1894. To Corning 1900. Blacksmith. Married Edyth Cooper, Knobel, 1903. Owner Service Station. Daughter, Alma L.

LEWIS, JAMES W.—Piggott—bor 1868, son of J. T. and Adeline (Johnson) Lewis. Clay county 1899. Farmer. Rural mail carrier for 28 years. One of first mail routes established in N. E. Arkansas, Route 1. Veteran of Spanish American War; Corp. 9th Ill. Regiment, 30th U. S. Vol. Veteran Phillipine Insurrection. Married Alwilda (d. 1896), daughter of John and Elizabeth (Jones) Cantrell. Missionary Baptist. Children; Larkin, Grace. Married, Arminta, daughter of Henry C. and (Susan) McLeskey Blake.) Children; Chloa, Lawton, Ray, Fay, Noneta, Irene.

MACK, JAMES H.—Greenway—born Greenway 1883 on homestead of grandfather. Son of W. Harvey and Ada Lavina (Dudley) Mack. Married Lonnie, daughter of W. M. and Martha (Payne) Landrum, 1906. Scaled logs below Greenway 1907-09; entered stock business. One son, Claude. Reared Martha (Landrum) Wilkes.

MANN, LAWRENCE—Piggott—born 1901, son of J. W. and Mathilda Mann. Clay county from Illinois 1901. Lumber inspector. Married Chloa Lewis, daughter of James W. and Arminta (Blake) Lewis. Methodist. Children; Billie L., Betty Joyce, Barbara Ann, Robert.

MARSHALL, ERNEST—Piggott—born Dunklin Co., Mo. 1877. Piggott 1905. Real estate business. Owns and operates 1300 acres land east of Piggott. Married Carry Sowell, Holly Springs, Miss. Carryville named for her. Presbyterian.

MATHENY, JAMES D.—Greenway—born Savannah, Tenn., 1873, son of W. H. and Mary Matheny. Greenway 1876. Married Sally (Miles) Roberts. Postmaster Greenway since 1932. Church of Christ.

MAYS, OBE—Leonard—born 1872, son of S. E. and Ann Mays. Clay county 1896. Methodist; 32nd degree Mason. Farms at Leonard. Married Alice, daughter of D. A. and Elizabeth Foster. Children; Charlie, Gladys, Laura, Alfonzo, Reva.

McCANN, A. E.—Datto—born 1894, son of W. and Martha (Sells) McCann. Mayor Datto three terms. Married Bessie Parker. Missionary Baptist. Mason. Children; John P., Una B.

McGHEE, BLANCHE—Piggott—daughter of W. C. and Laura McGhee. Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. Jonesboro Baptist College. Taught school at Bomar, Ring, Pfeiffer, Belle Ann and Piggott. Methodist.

MCLESKEY, LUTHER—Piggott—born near Piggott 1880, son of John M. and Fanny (Langley) McLeskey. Clay county 1885. Farmed until 1919. Mercantile business Piggott 1919. Justice of the Peace. Married Ida B., daughter of John and Mary (Bennet) Palsgrove. Methodist; Mason; Eastern Star; McLeskey's Store. Children; Muriel, Mary, Doilois, Doily.

McNEIL, H. H.—Piggott—born 1879, son of F. M. and Alice (Lowrance) McNiel. Contractor; builder. Married Fannie, daugter of Dr. J. D. and Myra (Tucker) Hafford. One son, Hoyt, now with J. F. Curry & Co., N. Y. Methodist; Mason. Lives in Clearwater, Fla. and Piggott.

McREADY, MRS. M. D.—Corning—daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Sides of Rector. Married S. J. Jones, (d.) 1886. Children; Ollie R., William O., Married M. D. McReady (d.) 1914. Methodist. Eastern Star. Rebecca.

MYERS, GROVER—Piggott—born 1885, son of J. M. and Ella (Bair) Myers, Ohio A. M. A. Military Academy; Uni. of Ark. Married Pearl Ann, daughter of W. T.

Lumber company; Myers Motor Company. Mason. Commercial Club. Presbyterian. Mrs. Myers serving second term president Piggott Civic Club. Children; Millicent, Joyce, James Monroe.

MYERS, JAMES R., JR.—Piggott—born 1912, son of J. R. and Maggie (Osman) Myers. Chillicothe Business College. Now acting secy.-treas. Myer's Stave and Mfg. Co. Married Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Staples.

MYERS, MRS. MAGGIE—Piggott—daughter of Caleb and Mary Jane Osman, Clay county 1893. Married James Ralph (d. 1925.) Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Myers. Methodist Church. Eastern Star. Children; Christene, Halcyon, James Ralph, Jr., William A., Martha Jane.

MITCHELL, FRANCES DEEVER—Greenway—daughter of David and Sophronia (Dixon) Mitchell. Clay county 1875, from Wayne County, Tenn. Thompson's Classical Institute, Paragould, Bellevue Hospital, N. Y. City. Graduate nurse.

MITCHELL, HUGH DIXON—Greenway—born Greenway 1877, son of David and Sophronia (Dixon) Mitchell. Clay county 1877. St. Louis School of Pharmacy. Pharmacist at Stigler and Lamar for eight years. Farmer.

MIZELL, E. L.—Corning—born 1883 son o fJ. E. and Callie (Caldwell) Mizell. Clay county 1904. Missionary Baptist. Railroad work, taught school. Clay county assessor 1932. Married Artie B. Schrivner. Children; Lowell, Walter, Winston, E. L., Jr., Alfreda, L. H., James Howard.

MOORE, WALLACE H.—Piggott—born 1909, son of H. W. (one of Clay County's early lawyers) and Susan Moore. Educated at Piggott. Motion picture projectionist. Married Mary R., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Templeton. Daughter, Jacqueline.

MORROW, ROY—Piggott—born 1886, Paulding, Ohio, son of J. C. and Belle Morrow. Came to Clay county 1900. Pitcher professional baseball Texas-Oklahoma League, All Amercian Ladies' Baseball Club in the south and "Kitty" League. Photographer at Piggott since 1915. Married Sudie (Bratcher) Simpson. Christian Church. M. W. A. Children; Larue, Junell.

NEELY, G. E.—Corning—born 1893, son of F. C. and Mollie Neely. Clay county 1888. F. C. Neely was Baptist circuit rider. Married Mollie, daughter of James and Lula George. Children; Anna Louise, James R., G. Ordained 1917. Pastor various places in Mo. Pastor First Baptist church since 1931.

O'KELLY, W. W.—Datto—born McDonald, Mo., 1893. Farm near Datto 1907. Married Vernie A. Griffin. Has seven children. Fisherman, hunter, farmer.

OLIVER, P. L.—Corning—born Corning 1892, son of Dr. and Mrs. P. L .Oliver. Mo. Valley College, Marshall, Mo. Married Merle Adams, Conway. Started cotton gin 1919. Owner of gins in Carryville, Moark, Pollard, and Lafe. Owner Crystal Drug Store.

OSMAN, ARTHUR—Piggott—born 1874, son of Caleb and Mary (Wilford) Osman. Clay county 1873. Farmer, teacher, clerk, millwright, stave manufacturer, saw and planing mill. Married Martha Ann, daughter of Benjamin F. and Neeta (Pollard) Bruce. Children; Chloe, Opal, Sidney, Herbert, Doyle, Mary, Arthur, Clayton. Bookeeper accountant B. H. Jennings Lbr. and Mer. Co., Flat River, Mo. Missionary Baptist. A. F., A. M. A., A. O. U. W., Eastern Star, Rebecca.

OUTLAW, MRS. MYRTIA S.—Rector—daughter of John J., captain Confederate army serving in Civil War and Pamela (McNiel) Allen. Grandaughter of Capt. J. J. Allen. Married Dr. Edward B. Outlaw (d. 1896.) Presbyterian. Eastern Star, Maccabee, Woodmen Circle, Women's Club. Children; Edward B., Jr., Maude, Bessie, Inez.

PARKER, HENRY JOSHUA—Piggott—born near Piggott 1888, son of Geo. Parker. Clay county from Tenn., 1881. Married Elsie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Wagster. Farmed before elected road overseer for St. Francis Township.

PARRISH, RALPH—Corning—born 1876, son of Will and Mary Elizabeth Parrish. Native Clay county. Oil fieuds, farming. Married Marie Dressendoefer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Dressendoefer. Children; Ralph, Jr., Mary Alice. Elected City marshal 1931.

PARSONS, LENNIE E.—Piggott—born 1892, Boydsville, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Parsons. Clay county 1865. Married Minnie Woods. Two children. Mason. Elected circuit clerk and recorder 1932.

PETERSON, CARL—Piggott—born 1908, son of A. C. and Henrietta (Hardin) Peterson. Detroit University. Welder, plumber, steam fitter, drug store clerk. Frost Pet. Co. Married Geraldine Smith.

PFEIFFER, DR. E. M.—Corning—

born Missouri 1896. Clay county 1927. Married May Baxter. Graduate of K. C. Medical College. House surgeon for Mo. Pac. R. R. at Little Rock. Clinic at Corning. Mason. Shriner.

PFEIFFER, KARL—Piggott—son of Paul M. and Mary Pfeiffer. Pfeiffer Land Co. Married Mathilda Schmidt, Newark, N. J. Notre Dame U., Harvard U. Children Barbara, Faul.

PHILLIPS, W. I.—Rector—born Paragould 1903. St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Druggist in Corning and Paragould. Rector 1932. Married Viva Cleveland. Paragould.

POLK, MRS. ROSA—Success—daughter of Billie and Martha (Seels) Thompson. Born, Success. Married W. D. Polk (d. 1932.)* stockraiser, pres, Success Bank, gin, mercantile co., planter. Methodist. Children; Blanche, Alice, John, Anna, Jefferson.

PORTERFIELD, E. E.—Piggott—born Savannah, Tenn, 1882. Piggott 1901.Architect and builder. Married, Lela, daughter Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Wheeler, 1905. Presbyterian. Children; Mrs. P. D. Jennings, Canton, Miss. Earl, Harold.

POTTER, MAYNARD—Piggott—born Tennessee 1884, son of J. P. and Amanda Potter. Greenway 1890. Always been in drug business. Moved to Piggott 1896. Married Sudie Walters. Potter's Drug Store.

POTTER, ROBERT L.—Pollard—born 1869, son of Zadock and Mary E. Potter. Clay county from Humphrey county, Tenn., 1903. Married Emma Floyd Edwards, (d.) Children; Boyd, William Z., Sidney L., Emma E., Agnes. Married Lena L. Jackson. Daughter; Rachel. Missionary Baptist. Mason, Odd Fellows. Farmer near Pollard.

PURCELL, ELMER M.—Rector—born 1894, son of J. W. and Ida (West) Purcell. Married Gurtha Randleman, daughter of W. W. and Cora (Franklin) Randleman. St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Purcell Drug Store. Mason, Eastern Star. Methodist. Son, Elmer, Jr.

RATCLIFFE, T. W.—Corning—born 1878, son of J. and Hulda (Warner) Ratcliffe. Knobel in 1880. Married Kitty Pugsley, daughter of C. S. and Augusta (Lee) Pugsley. Farmed. Moved to Corning. Dep. co. clerk. dep. circuit clerk. Treas. Corning city council. Sec. Drainage Dist., Commissioner of W. Dist. Court. Methodist. Mason. Eastern Star. Children; Edwina, French, Hal, Lamar, Jewell, Marguerite, Thomas, Fredrick, Anna Lee.

ROUSH, MRS. ROBIN—Knobel—born Greene County, daughter of Lela and Don Byers. Educated Greene County schools. State Board of Pharmacy 1909. Married J. D. Roush 1913. Mercantile business, Methodist.

RENFRO, S. D.—Pollard—born near Pollard 1875, son of early Arkansas family. Married Jennie Kirk 1899. Children; Leslie M., Elsie. Constable 1912-18. Dep. Sheriff under George Crews 1914-18, Chas. Payne, 1925-26. Farmer.

ROBBINS, JOHN WIDNEY—Piggott—born 1911, son of Albert and Lalla E. Robbins. Robbin's Tailor Shop.

MOONEY, SAMUEL THOMAS—St. Francis—born, Warren Co., Ga. 1857. Continuos railroad service beginning in Ga., in 1875. Owned farm Whitefield Co., Ga., contractor. Cotton Belt, Bridgeport, Mo. 1900; transferred to St. Francis 1908. Married Florida J. McDonald, Ga. Missionary Baptist. Mason, Eastern Star. Children; Chas., Fannie, Beulah.

SARVER, LAURA ETTA—Piggott—daughter of J. L. and Mary E. Sarver. Native Clay County. U. of A., S. E. Mo. Normal School. Presbyterian. Eastern Star. Has taught grade schools in Clay county since 1895. Thirty-second year in Piggott school. Has taught about 3,000 beginners.

SCHWINEGRUBER, A. H.—Datto—born 1893, son of Wesley and Rosetta (Dunn) Schwinegruber. Married Edna Moore (d. 1925.) Married Lay Patterson 1927. Baptist. Mason. Children; Reda, Irene, Cleta.

SCURLOCK, EDWARD HOLMES—Piggott—born Piggott 1892, son of J. R. and Mary Etta (Lingle) Scurlock. Uni. of Ark. Member of School Board, twice City Treasurer; County Treas, two terms; cashier of Bank of Piggott; county board of Education. Now pres. and manager of Piggott Handle Co. Supt. Methodist Sunday School, past grand master Masonic Lodge. Pres. of Piggott Chamber of Commerce for two years. Second Lt. in World War, overseas 8 mo. Married Helen Baird, Hamburg. Children; Vance, Dorothy, Louise, Mary Helen.

SCURLOCK, JAMES ROSS—Piggott—born Dongola, Ill. 1863. Made tics first year in Clay county. Mercantile business 1886; sheriff 1893-1915; sec. and collector St. Francis Drainage Dist. since 1913; served on school board. Methodist. Mason.

Married Etta Lingle (d.) Children; Edward H., Mabel, Stella, (Nat'l sec. Y. W. C. A.,) Roger, John. Married Nancy Ellen (Bruce) Brown, daughter of Benjamin F. and Neeta (Pollard) Bruce, 1930. Missionary Baptist. Piggott.

SELLMEYER, JOSEPH B.—Knobel—born Indiana 1862. Clay County 1884. Settled at Knobel. Married Bernardson Dahmus. Children; Les, Edward, Carl, Mrs. Don Byers. Catholic. Sellmeyer's General Merchandise.

SETTLEMOIR, ODIE—Pollard—born Piggott, 1895, son of Lemuel and Martha (Holcomb) Settlemoir. Farmer. Niebaur Store, Fagues' Mo., 1923-25, oil station Poplar Bluff, Mo., 1925-27. Married Lena Toombs, daughter of Bert and Dora (Shelby) Toombs. Daughter, Flora.

SHAVER, JOHN B.—Corning—born in Randolph County, 1901, son of A. C. and J. C. Shaver. Came to Clay county 1926. Married Ruth Weatherford, daughter of J. G. and Ida (Poe) Weatherford. Mercantile business. Christian Church. Daughter, Marie.

SIMMONS, DR. W. H.—Rector—born 1863, son of Dr. G. W. and Martha (Gee) Simmons, who settled at Scatterville in 1857. Iuta Normal School, Iuta, Miss. Taught school. M. D., St. Louis Medical College; Chicago Medical College. Married Lucy, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Lowderneck, Prescott. Methodist. Son, Wayne.

SIMPSON, MRS. A. R.—Corning—born 1861, daughter of Sidney and Martha Whitehead, Crystal Springs, Miss. Married Dr. A. R. Shipman (d. 1926.) Clay county 1885. Surgeon for Mo. Pac. R. R. 35 years. Mason Presbyterian. Past Grand Matron of Eastern Star. Son, Perry O.

SMITH, TEZZIE—Success—born Tenn., 1888. Success 1905, opened store 1910. Married Dorcas Douglas, Pocahontas, 1907. Four children. School director. Presbyterian. Mason. System Manager Tezzie Smith Stores.

SNEED, ARTHUR—Piggott—born, Hamilton, Ill., 1876. Taught five years. Piggott Jan. 1911; studied law Judge Hunter's office; admitted to bar Oct. 1911. Married Iva Knight, Ill. Children; Helen, Ruth, Mildred, Aaron, Lyman J., Arthur, Jr., Marshall. Chairman Mun. Light, Water and Sewer Dist, since 1923. Chairman state Mun. Ownership League since 1920; school board since 1918; mayor one term; city atty.; dep. States atty. of Clay county. Missionary Baptist. Mason. Chairman local board during World War.

SPENCE, MRS. HENRY A.—Piggott—daughter of Dr. G. W. and Martha Jane Simmons. Married Senator W. E. Spence (d. 1932.) Presbyterian. Children; Bernie, Opal, Ayleene, William M., Mary Cathrine.

STANFIELD, MRS. LAURA—Corning—born Wayne County, Mo. Clay county 1911. Daughter of S. T. and Mary E. (Norton) Anderson. Married G. W. Stanfield, postmaster Corning, jeweler. Children; Lucille, (asst. postmaster,) Ruth Mary. P. T. A. Rebecca. Christian Church.

STANLEY, DUDLEY ROSS—St. Francis—born Kentucky 1867. St. Francis 1890. Planter, merchant, banker. Mayor St. Francis one year; city treas 1895-1905; organized and was president Bank of St. Francis 1912-17. K. P. Cumberland Presbyterian. Eastern Star. Married Mary Putnam, Ky. Past Worthy Matron Eastern Star. Children; Lucille, Madeline.

STEWART, ELMER GREEN—Piggott—born near Piggott, 1908. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Stewart. Owns meat market. Married Marie Blake, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Blake. Rice Chapel Methodist Church. Children; Samuel R., June M.

STEWART, JAMES EVERETTE—Piggott—born Piggott 1911. Brother of E. G. Stewart and Partner in Stewart's Meat Market.

SURSA, MRS. W. W.—Corning—daughter of Joe and Mary Cowell, born in Camden, Tenn. Came to Clay county 1902. Married W. R. Wynn (d. 1915,) farmer, Wynn Mercantile Co. Married W. E. Sursa 1917. Clay county 1912, merchant, real estate. Methodist. Mason, shriner Eastern Star.

TAYLOR, JUDGE FELIX G.—Corning—born 1859, Cape Girardeau, Mo., son of Robert L. and Nancy (Uhles) Taylor. Normal College, Cape Girardeau, Commercial College, Harpersville, Miss. Member of legislature 1891, circuit judge 1894-96-1902. Presidential elector 1916. Married Viola Beloate. Methodist. Mason, Knight Templar, Elk. Children; Rupert, Ida, Beloit.

TAYLOR, JUDGE JERRY L.—Corning—born 1874, Cape Girardeau, Mo., son of Robert L. and Elline (Minton) Taylor. Clay county 1891. Educated Searcy, Ark., Franklin, Tenn. Cape Girardeau Normal. Married Sally, daughter of J. B. and Clara (Thompson) Boulton. Admitted to bar 1897. Elected judge 1921-3-4. Dep. pros. atty. under Going, Huddleston, Davis, Gladish, Dudley. Now County pros. Atty. Methodist.

TERRY, JOHN T.—Corning—born Marmaduke 1885, son of Henry and Virginia

(Toom) Terry who came from Tenn. 1885. Farmed except 1911-12 when operated restaurant at Bernie, Mo. Clay county 1912. Oversees. 900 acre farm and operates two own farms past 14 years near Carryville. I. O. O. F. Married Amy Vineyard, daughter of S. H .and Martha (Motsinger) Vineyard, Gideon, Mo. 1911. Presbyterian. Children; Paul, Martha, John, Jr., Ozie, Pauline.

THOMPSON, GEORGIA ALLEN McCRACKEN—Success—daughter of Joe and Georgia (Taylor) McCracken. Native Clay County. Father came at age of 12 Canada. Married Carl Thompson. Methodist. Eastern Star. Postmistress.

THOMPSON, MRS. ZULA WARD—Greenway—daughter of S. A. and Dolly Alvorita (Trammel) Ward. Central College, Conway. Post Grad. Central College; concert work in 8 states; taught piano Central College Conservatory 1914-16; Masonic Home and School, Batesville. First Arkansas girl to fly an airplane. Married S. P. Thompson, Las Cruces, N. M., 1931. One son, William Ward Gregg by former marriage. Was president of American Auxiliary, and of Piggott Civic Club.

TRUSCOTT, PATSY BRYAN—born Texas, daughter of Dr. Lucian K. and Maria (Tully) Truscott, Okla. Univ. of Okla.

TUCKER, CLYDE—Piggott—born 1875 son of Marion J. and Mary J. Tucker. Draugh's. Bus. College, Nashville, Tenn. Merchant, Married, Carrie Anderson, daughter of W. M. and Virginia Anderson. Elder Christian Church. Children; Juanita, Eulalia.

UPTON, VERLIN—Rector—born Phillippi, Va., 1895. Uni. of Va., Columis U. N. Y. City. Medical dept. army during World War. Married Norma Holifield, daughter of Judge B. B. Holifield. Pioneer citizen of Clay county. American Legion.

VANCIL, OSCO E.—Piggott—born near Piggott 1878. Old settler. Married Elizabeth Langley, Greenway, 1900. Four children. Elected constable 1930.

WAGNER, ROY—Rector—born near Rector 1900. Married Mildren Hayes, Rector 1923. Manager Farmer's Co-Operative Association.

WALK, ROY EVERETTE—Carryville—born Corning 1891, son of Joe E. and Melissa (Brown) Walk. Piggott 1915. Now merchant and cotton buyer. Carryville. Married Ruth C., daughter of W. L. and Ella (Gates) Keith, 1916. Lutheran. Children; Keith L., Catharine N.

WALLAIN, JACK C.—Piggott—born Piggott, 1899, son of John Wallain, came to Clay county 1887. Dep. under Geo. McNeil; elected sheriff 1930. Married Anna McBride 1928.

WARD, E. G.—Piggott—born Greenway 1889. Married Kittie Bell Harris. Children; Maurice, Ray, Alma Mae, Wayne. Graduate Lincoln Jefferson University, Chicago. Taught school. Member of law firm Ward and Ward. Tax assessor 1917-20. Baptist. Mason. Eastern Star. Present judge of Clay County.

WARD, O. T.—Rector—born 1890. Native Clay county. Married Edna Campbell. Children; Mildred, James, Mary, Marguerite, Martha, Meriam, Marlaine. Rep. 1921-24. Member Co. Board of Education. Mason. K. P. Methodist. Member firm Ward & Ward.

WATKINS, E. L.—Rector—born near Jonesboro 1892. In drug business 9 yrs. before moving business to Rector in 1932.

WEBB, E. COLEMAN—Piggott—born 1867. Son of R. T. and Harriet (White) Webb, Tenn. Clay county 1889. Union U., Jackson, Tenn. Married Jennie, daughter of Sam and Elizabeth (Garnet) Wheeler. Children; Robert T., Kathleen.

WEBB, ROBERT T.—Piggott—born Piggott 1907. Son of E. C. and Jennie (Wheeler) Webb. Uni. of Okla.

WHEELER, MRS. SAMUEL THOMAS—Piggott—born Fulton County, Ky. Married Samuel Thomas Wheeler, Hickman County, Ky. 1869. Clay County 1890. Settled at Greenway. Built in Piggott in 1898. Children; Mrs. E. C. Webb, Mrs. E. E. Porterfield, Mrs. O. H. Parrish, J. R. and L. M. Wheeler

WHEELER, BERT—Piggott—born 1886, son of Napoleon and Emma Wheeler. Eckles School of Embalming. Member Brown and Wheeler. Married Nettie Jane, daughter of J. J. Brown and Susan (Stevens) Brown. Daughter, Cornelia, now Mrs. Ray Winton.

WILLIAMS, LEAH—Piggott—daughter of Nathan W. and Martha (Dark) Williams. Clay county 1900 from Carrollton, Tenn. Southern Normal University, Huntingdon, Tenn. Peabody College, Nashville. Has A. B. and L. I. degrees from Arkansas State Teacher's College, Conway. Post grad. U. of Ark. Principal Piggott school since 1906. Has been principal at Wilson, Ark., Hornerville, Mo.

WINTON, RAY—Piggott—born 1906 son of O. R. and Minnie (Hardin) Winton. Springfield Business College. Clay County Abstract Co. Married Cornelia, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Wheeler. Children ,Dorotha Hane, James.

WINTON, LOUIS OWEN—Pollard—born Pollard 1879, son of Dr. E. J. and Rachel Winton. Farmer. Married Florence Carpenter, 1901. Missionary Baptist. Children; Fred, Ora, Lucille Gray.

WINN, T. W.—Corning—born Richwoods settlement 1886, son of W. R. and Arabella Winn. Married Effie, daughter of C. H. and Mary L. Crabtree. Landowner, cotton dealer; feed and grist mill. I. O. O. F., K. P. Mason, 32nd. degree. Methodist. Member of school board; member government cotton acreage reduction; charter member Corning Bank and Trust Company. Children Isabel, W. Robert, Kathleen, Helen.

WRIGHT, VICTOR C.—Piggott—born Ohio 1883. Clay County 1889. Married Nora Toombs, Piggott. Mail Carrier. Baptist. Children; Tennia, Mayme, Myrl.

(No attempt has been made to select names in Clay County People; but an effort was made to have a cross-section of such families as make up the county today given in these pages.)

One of the old passenger coaches held up by Jesse James is being used today for an informal club house by railroad officials of the Missouri Pacific railroad. It sits along the track one mile west of Corning.

The first still-and-grist-mill in Clay County was operated by William Whitaker on the St. Francis River. It was started ten years before either Sietz of Dalton had a ferry at Chalk Bluff.

One method of making flour, practiced in the early days, was that of beating the headed wheat over the edge of a barrel to separate the grain from the straw. Then the wheat was ground in a coffee grinder to make the flour. The first biscuits, usuelly served only on Sunday morning, were called "terrapins." Later when grist mills came in, one sixth of the grain was charged for milling.

Mrs. Alice Wright, mother of Victor Wright, Piggott, showed some of the neighbors how to can the first fruit they ever put up in 1881. Dick Copeland bought the first glass fruit jars ever sold in Scatterville. They were half gallon jars and cost $4.50 a dozen.

Jim Gleghorn, father of J. M. Gleghorn.

Before cotton was ginned in Clay County women spun and wove the cloth for making clothes and in the sixties and seventies ten yeards was barely enough for one dress.

In 1880 the population of Clay County was 7,191 whites and 22 negroes. By 1890 the population had reached 16,000, with a decrease of about half in negroes.

W. T. Gaskins, Piggott, has been a railroad employee for 44 years and has never, in that time, lost a day's work from ill health.

Jack Pollard, who died only recently had a blacksmith shop near the present Pollard and often shod the horses of Jesse and Frank James when they were going south to hide out after one of their raids or train robberies.

John Gleghorn, father of J. M., Corning on his way to the present district of Clay County in 1859, rode the first steamboat to sail up White River. J. M. later induced many people to come and settle near Knobel by giving them free land and seed.

Mrs. Nancy Payne, (wife of B. B.) was the only mid-wife between Chalk Bluff and Gainsville in the fifties when doctors were scarce, and charged only $2.00 for her services.

Ed Caldwell, living near Nimmons, still gets mail at Greenway because, as he says, all of his people have always had their letters addressed to "Greenway" or "Clayville." His father, his mother and his mother's people were pioneers.

Matt Harris, Piggott, organized the first Boy Scout troop in Arkansas, (1914.) The only one to dispute the honor is Judge Friarson of Jonesboro, but Harris says Friarson has never been able to prove to him wrong.

Mrs. Zula Ward Thompson, Greenway, was the first Arkansas girl to fly an airplane

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Early furniture, bread boards, mixing bowls, looms and such things, were made by a man named Treadway in and around Greenway. T. A. Moore owns one of the looms today.

Names Our Grandmothers Loved Had Strength and Beauty.

Despite our romancing in looking backward, the early pioneers lived too strenuously and simply for much flowering of romance and the names they gave their girl children were often minute summaries of the romance that life denied.

In going over a list of them, the heroines of romantic books, almost forgotten now, have had their names made permanent. There are even the Latin and Italian names with the "o" and "e" endings which were given early heroines, and they sound strange among the Anglo Saxon names. But even the hinting of the grand and regal in these foreign names could not combat inviroment—so, by pronunciation, they were gradually shortened and changed until they were no longer incongruous.

Arzilla, often became Azzie or Aggie; Vernetta, Vernie or Vern; Viora was reduced to Vi; Cazelia took the form of Selia or Celia; and so were Roena, Orinda, Docia, Dena, and Nora Arlena changed and disfigured in pronunciation until they are lost in the present day and their off springs are smoothly part of the time and enviroment.

Arabella was a favorite, sometimes called Arabelle; and the forms of Agnes appear in Angie and Aggie with impartial frequency. Adeline and Adelaide are found, with the diminutive Addie; Abbie, Annie, Anna and Amy.

Bernice was not a favorite with our grandmothers who preferred Bernetta and Berlinda or just Belle, Bettie or Beulah. Sometimes homesickness, possibly, patriotism or a suppressed longing for countries are expressed in such names as America Leota, Willia Genoa, Vandellia, Tennessee, or Sardinia.

Stange corruptions of a common name appear frequently such as Lavinia, Levana, Lavina and Luvina; or better still, Leamma, Lemmer, and Leana. Lenora is sometimes spelled Lanora; and Louella becomes both Lula and Luella. Lydia is not missing among the list of favorites, nor Lily, sometimes Lillie, and other times Lillian Lee.

Sallie and Sarah, with Martha, sometimes Marthie, appear often with Susanna and Susan or Susan Jane.

More sedate, more directly Puritan are such names as Parthena, Parmela, or Permelia Ann, Prudence, Priscilla, Philema, Patience, Pleasant and Pearlie. Tabitha contains a dignity today's diminutives lack; and Keziah, Fidelia, Hermina and Clarissa or Clara Rosaline.

Such homey sounding names as Leoter, Lizy Edna, Effie, Eliza, Elvira, Ettie, or Etta Lee, Emeline, Elmira, Joannah, Delilah, Bertie, Gussie, Hannah or Hannie, Fannie and Dinah were often given sisters of girls bearing such names as Lucretia, Jackianna, Isabele, Harriet, Malinda, Minerva, Theresa, Victoria, Wilhelmina or Euphemia

The Cecilias and Amelias, Adelles, Alviras, Amandas, Melvinas, Vernas, Opals, and the always-with-us Mary, Elizabeth and Catharine were given to many daughters of pioneers.

Diminutives were common, often unusual ones, such as Wittie, Willie Ann, Stapie, Temple, Retta and Nannie, Mollie, Mattie and Emma, Ella or Ellen, Minnie and May.

And some of these names smack of an easier, less congested time; of dark walled rooms with darker corners; of country houses, the odor of its rooms on cold mornings and the smell of wood smoke and—last, of little girls in pig tails scuffling in the dust down country roads.

Pearlie Gertrude and Kittie Belle are like that, and if you are visual minded then Cory Bell brings up a calico clad woman, a little work gaunt, in the cabin door calling "Cory Bell," down a creek and valley.

———O———

The old Ground Hog thresher, introduced after the Civil War, beat out the wheat, straw and chaff together. This, was then poured into a hopper, bit by bit, and turned by hand to separate the wheat.

Johnnie Cakes, of either flour or meal, were patted out and baked on a clean oak board in the ashes. Cooked in ashes, they were called ash cakes.

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Wild honey and sorghum molasses were common substitutes for sugar.

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At the meetings of people for house raisings and log rollings all the strong men of the surrounding country gathered. Some of the feats of strength that were performed at these meetings would have made present day weight athletes take notice, and have given them pointers on lag, dead weight, and body lifts. Poles were used to raise and carry logs and the strongest men usually led off by lifting the heavy end, (showing daylight beneath the log) for the others to get the carrying poles under.

The first car brought into eastern Clay County, about 1909 or '10. It was mounted on a flat car and stopped at maor towns along the Cotton Belt.

In Piggott the automobile was taken from the flat car and driven about the town streets. The day of its coming was a gala one and the prominent citizens were all requested to ride in it. They were hesitant but, under the public eye, accepted.

The car was a monster; bristling with inexplicable levers, handles, gadgets, protuberances and brass adornments. Jerking and puffing, there would be sudden explosions, great clouds of smoke would blossom out and obscure the car. The smoke would clear away and, to the repeated surprise of the spectators, the car still remained—its knob and gadgets intact.

It was real courage which supported these "leading citizens" in getting into the machine and when the ride was over they stepped from the car with relief. They had ridden in the "infernal machine."

In 1911 Tellie J. Bruce and Ira Harlan bought cars and by 1915 a dozen or so were scattered around over the county. The roads were poor and cars could be used only about four months in the year and then only around the towns. These first cars were feared by teams and people alike. Hearing one coming, the driver of a team would get out and hitch to the nearest post or tree until it had passed.

Now a car has to be very large and showy to merit the notice of the few backwoodsmen left in the county.

In the folk-lore of the early Anglo-Saxons it was considered a bad omen if a fire went out. In pioneer days bad luck from letting a fire go out was both immediate and apparent. Mrs. Nancy Brown (J. R.) Scurlock remembers when, as a child, she had to carry coals from a neighbor three miles distant, when a fire went out. There were no matches and neighbors were sometimes from four to ten miles distant through the woods; coals were carried back in pans. When people were travelling they carried coals bedded down in Dutch Ovens, or "Spiders" as they were called.

Wild turkeys were trapped by building a roofed over pen of small logs or poles. A trench was dug which led up into the pen and corn was scattered along it. Looking up for a way out, and never down, the turkeys were very effectually trapped.

Then the country became more generally settled, quilting parties or "Quiltings" became a social event. After the giver of the party had finished sewing the squares, the women were invited to help with the finishing of the quilt. There was much food and feminine chatter and when the quilt was finished and cut from the frame the unmarried women held it up by the edges. A cat was thrown onto it and jostled about.

When the shaking up stopped, the cat jumped for the floor and the girl to whom it came nearest in the scramble for freedom, was supposed to be the one who would be married first. This was called "finding which way the cat would jump." Many old timers vouch for the cat's matrimonial judgement.

After the Civil War, a popular gift for the young ladies was snuff. They in turn gave young men tobacco, a twist, used for both smoking and chewing. "Home made" is still in use and makes a strong draft for one accustomed to smoking for pleasure.

Many vessels and containers, not used for cooking, were whittled out of wood. Those used to cook in were almost always of iron.

The first wagons, called "tar poles," were home made and came by their name from the pine tire used to grease the axles.

John Janes, father of the present James W. of Rector, was an early pioneer is Missouri. Before landings were so plentiful along the Mississippi River, John Janes had settled where St. Louis now stands, and at one time owned all the land upon which the southern part of the city was built. A few families came in and settled near him and he pushed on to Randolph county and settled among the Indians. He abandoned the land where St. Louis was later built, and was the only white man in the western end of the county where he settled.

The first merchant to come to Piggott was A. Jack Brown, who erected a box house and opened the first store in 1882. His brother, Jake, came a few months later from Illinois and became Piggott's first undertaker.

Jack Brown's store was in south Piggott, below Sugar Creek, where the town first built.

The late E. D. Estes was a confederate; a man named Bysinger was an old Union soldier. While Estes was county clerk at Corning, Bysinger used to come to him for his pension checks and they would laugh over a "Yank" asking a "Rebel" for anything.

Piggott was known to Rector as "Kopp's Apple Orchard" and variously as "Doe-doe" "Lick Skillet," "Dog Trot," and "Holley Switch."

The square timber industry flared up, and was dramatic, before it died. In the early nineties the huge white oak timber in Clay County was discovered by northern timber companies. Michigan, Canadian and English companies sent their men to cut the huge trees and make them into ship timbers.

The timbers were called "square" because of the way they were cut. When a white oak tree was felled, men with broadaxes were ready to strip off the limbs and hew the trees into one long square piece. Sometimes the tree was hewn to be the same size at top and bottom.

Many smaller trees had to be cut where the big oaks were to fall. A jungle of criscrossed and tumbled logs was left. The hewing of the timbers down to the square was added waste—and the waste was not confined to timber.

Human life was as cheap as white oak. Men worked winter and summer in the muck and waist deep in sloughs. Uncle Joe Williams, Piggott, said they would often have to break the ice in the sloughs to get at the timber but working hard all day kept them from being bothered by icy wet clothing. Many men died from this exposure and those surviving are twisted and gnarled with rheumatism, rendered helpless before their time. Recreation from this hard monotonous toil was found in drinking and fighting—only violence could clear the mind, even momentarily, from the deading effect.

There is still much old time handmade furniture in Cherry, oak and walnut in Clay County homes. Tobe Bruce, Piggott, working by hand in walnut, has made many fine reproductions of this old furniture.

The pioneers have been spoken of in the past tense in this book, but some of them remain. They are those individuals, less facile and malleable than the rest, who have still carried down the habits of thinking and living that their parents or grandparents had.

These men are usually fond of hunting and fishing and live back away from the towns and highways. As the turkeys go and there are fewer squirrels, they move back a little further into the hills or bottoms.

Engrossed in ambitions diferent from our own, they have been little affected by the rapid changes and many of their colloquialism and figures of speech hint of a different day. In early days a coon dog was worth $100 and a plow horse, $10—and these men still evaluate fox and coon dogs more highly than horses. They have more guns than plows and often their wives look forward as much as they do, to the fall and winter hunting.

To those presumably competent to judge these are the shiftless people who are caricatured in the Arkansas Traveller. Yet, those "Summits of culture," like the Mercury group, still cry raucously for Individualism to replace the stereotyped in America. Arkansas has no greater individualism than is found in these remnants from the pioneer period.

A unique (in both senses of the word) industry in Clay County is the making of walking sticks by Haze Harlan, living west of Piggott. Harlan ranges the woods of his farm for hickory sprouts to make into canes, always on the lookout for one that has grown up in an unusual or grotesque form. Steaming the raw material at home, he bends it into the shapes he wishes and puts it into the frame dry.

Some of the canes are entwined to represent snakes, the heads carved to represent various animals, and they vary in size from the lightest swagger stick to very heavy walking sticks.

Harlan has built up awide demand for his goods and receives orders from all over the United States.

Some quality in the soils and waters of Clay county makes wood and dead animals petrify. Pieces have been brought to Piggott, wood that has petrified, and animals, (resembling the wild hog which used to frequent the swamps) have been found in many places.

(Continued from Page 3.)

T. A. Janes ..... 1890 to 1892
Robert Webb ..... 1892 to 1895 died
Geo. McNeil ..... Appointed to 1896
M. A. Scarbrough ..... 1896 to 1900
Robert Dudley ..... 1900 to 1904
C. A. Cargill ..... 1904 to 1914
George Dodd ..... 1914 to 1918
B. E. Williams ..... 1918 to 1922
Bristo Mann ..... 1922 to 1924
E. H. Scurlock ..... 1924 to 1926 Ap'td.
Wm. B. Burton ..... 1926 to 1928
J. R. Scurlock ..... 1928 to 1930 Ap'td.
Carl Hastings ..... 1930 to 1932

Tax Assessors

E. N. Royall ..... 1873 to 1874
J. S. Rogers ..... 1874 to 1876
W. H. Mack ..... 1876 to 1878
J. W. Rogers ..... 1878 to 1882
Henry Holcomb ..... 1882 to 1886
J. S. Blackshare ..... 1886 to 1890
L. C. Moore ..... 1890 to 1894
Chas. Goldsby ..... 1894 to 1896
W. C. Cochran ..... 1896 to 1900
Tom Dalton ..... 1900 to 1902
Thomas Dalton ..... 1902 Died
J. S. Bucy ..... Appointed to 1904
John Brawner ..... 1904 to 1908
George Dodd ..... 1908 to 1912
B. E. Williams ..... 1912 to 1916
E. G. Ward ..... 1916 to 1920
Geo. F. Waddle ..... 1920 to 1924
S. P. Woods ..... 1924 to 1928
Frank Dalton ..... 1928 to 1932

Webb, Truscott & Brown

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